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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 May

LD1105053994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0449 GMT 11 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 11 ITAR-TASS—The national press leads with reports about the celebrations of Victory Day in Moscow and other cities of the country.

The newspapers also highlight President Yeltsin's visit to Germany which begins today. "Russia and Germany are entering a new phase in relations," according to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. "No Russian soldiers will remain stationed in Germany as of this year. Their send-off will be an event of great importance both for Germany and for Russia. The format of the ceremony will be in the focus of talks between Yeltsin and Kohl. The Weimar Syndrome, for which Russia is often being rebuked because of its reluctance to agree to a farewell ceremony in the city of Goethe and Schiller, is not likely to be broached during the talks," the newspaper says.

The newspaper predicts success to the Russian president's visit and points out that even "the unpleasant point related to restitution is unlikely to overcloud the talks".

PRAVDA ventures in this respect that "Kohl and Yeltsin during their meeting in Bonn are to take the final decision on the ceremony of withdrawal of the Russian troops. Of course, the United States, Britain and France are Germany's long-standing NATO partners, who, following the blockade of 1948-1949 and the building of the Berlin wall, became "Berlin's defenders" against the communist menace". But the question now is about summing up the final results of the war, in which these three powers were Russia's allies, and not about Germany's gratitude to the Americans and the British for the airlifts of food to West Berlin".

As concerns the possible return to Germany of the collection of the Gotha Library, PRAVDA says "the most important thing in this respect is the creation of a precedent. It is not really important what Russia is going to give away this time—a royal collection, a collection of paintings or the Kuril Islands. As soon as precedent is there, new and unpredictable claims may arise, just as several countries are already claiming the famous "Schliemann's gold".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a headline "Russian Have Armed the Yemenis to the Teeth and Are Now Washing Their Hands" under which it analyses the causes of the civil war in that country. The hand of Moscow, or rather its absence, pushed Yemen to its present political and economic crisis. When it abandon Yemen after pumping hundreds of millions of dollars in it, the Kremlin decided that Russia does not have any special interests in the south Arabian Peninsula". The newspaper stresses that "it is now clear that no peace can be established but through a political dialogue. Even if the northerners capture the main strategic targets, the southerners will probably retreat to the desert or the mountains, and the war, judging from the country's history, might continue for decades".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) comments on the same and adds that "unfortunately, there is little hope for a prompt ending to the military actions". "Both the south and the north are swamped with guns, which number at least 30 million pieces," the newspaper says. "The heavy guns were delivered in plenty by the former Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries. Both the southerners and the northerners know how to use these guns as may of them were trained in Russian military schools and academies".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an analysis of the situation before the Russian-Chechen negotiations. According to Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray, the negotiations will begin quite soon. The delegation from the Russian Federation has worked out a position of its own and is ready to get down to work," ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI announces.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA is critical of the past and the future of privatisation in the country. "It is now obvious that not only the disabled but also able-bodied Russians have a chance of joining in the process of redistribution of property," the newspaper writes. "The continuing impoverishment of the population and the devaluation of labour in recent months have finally undercut any possibility for wage-labourers to participate in the division of property".

TRUD publishes an interview with State Duma deputies Mikhail Mityukov and Vladimir Isakov about the law-making process in the lower chamber of the Russian parliament.

Yeltsin's Germany Visit To Define Relations

LD1005150294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The official visit [to Germany] by Russian President Boris Yeltsin beginning Wednesday cannot be described as "traditional", aide to the Russian president on foreign affairs, Dmitriy Ryurikov has told INTERFAX. Despite the fact that during the visit the two sides are to sign documents, for example, on economic cooperation, "the developing of a concept of relations between our countries in the post-confrontational period" will occupy the main place in the talks between President Yeltsin and leading German politicians, said the president's aide.

In view of this concept the two sides will consider the peculiarities of the new stage in Russian-German cooperation, as well as problems associated with the final withdrawal of the Russian troops from Federal Germany before August, 1994, said Ryurikov. He made it clear that a change of the initial "modest form" of Russian troop withdrawal from Germany may be one of the results of the discussion of the pullout's fine points.

The discussion during Yeltsin's visit "of the modality of the Russian-German relations for the coming years," believes Ryurikov, must lay a stable foundation for the entire system of contacts between the states, their economic circles, and between individuals.

Ryurikov believes that the German Chancellor's invitation to President Yeltsin to visit his native land is the response by Helmut Kohl for last year's trip with Yeltsin to Lake Baykal. Such meetings of the leaders "in the provinces of both countries" enhance better understanding of the spirit of both countries and peoples, said Ryurikov.

He said that experts responsible for concrete issues, which Yeltsin plans to consider during the visit, are members of the Russian delegation. The visit's schedule provides for meetings and talks between Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, German President Richard von Weizsacker, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, Prime Minister of Baden-Wurttemberg, Erwin Teufel, chairman of the German Social Democratic Party, Rudolph Scharping, as well as meetings with leading business people of Germany.

Yeltsin Seeks Troop Farewell Ceremony in Berlin

LD1005150394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] As Interfax learned from well-informed sources in Russia's Foreign Ministry, during his visit to Germany on May 11-13 President Boris Yeltsin will try to talk the Germans into conducting the ceremony of farewell to the Russian troops in Berlin, not in Weimar. "The President is firmly resolved to reach this goal," a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax.

According to him, "there is no logic in conducting the ceremony of farewell to the Western allies in Berlin, a city conquered by Soviet troops, and saying farewell to the Russians in Weimar, a city conquered by the allied troops."

As he said, "the striving to say farewell to the Russians in Weimar, where no Reichstag was stormed and no victory banner was hoisted, reflects the desire to erase from the memory of the Germans some history chapters, particularly the quadrilateral allied responsibility for Germany."

The issue of Russia's Kaliningrad Region may also be discussed during President Yeltsin's visit to Germany, the diplomat said. "This may take place during his confidential conversation with Chancellor Helmut Kohl," he said.

Moscow's attitude to Kaliningrad and Kaliningrad Region remains unchanged, Interfax's interviewee stressed. "This is Russian land, and we shall surrender it to no one," he pointed out.

According to Interfax's interviewee, "some circles in Germany are trying to kindle the issue concerning Kaliningrad's status in the hope that in the future it will become possible to raise it officially." "There will be no such possibility," he stressed.

The diplomat spoke in favor of "levelling up" ties between Kaliningrad Region and Germany. "It's clear that Germany, because of its economic might at least, will be ahead of Sweden or, say, Lithuania in trade with Kaliningrad Region. However, in terms of economic cooperation, Kaliningrad Region must not and will not be oriented solely to Germany," he noted.

Troop Withdrawal To Dominate Visit

LD1105061194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0555 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamiatina]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has left for an official visit to Germany on Wednesday.

The complete withdrawal of Russian troops from the German soil is expected to dominate the agenda of the visit. The two countries' leaders are expected to sign an agreement on a joint official farewell.

During the visit, the sides are also scheduled to sign a number of bilateral economic agreements.

Helmut Kohl has invited Boris Yeltsin to visit his native town Oggersheim, ITAR-TASS learned from sources close to the Russian president.

'Compromise' Likely on Troop Withdrawal

PM1005184194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 94 p 1

[Report by Yevgeniy Bovkun in Bonn and Boris Vinogradov in Moscow: "Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl Will Decide How To Give the Russian Troops a Worthy Send-Off"]

[Text] A final decision on the place and nature of the Russian troops' send-off will obviously be the main result of Boris Yeltsin's visit to the FRG, which will end 13 May. The send-off ceremony itself, scheduled for 31 August, has unexpectedly caused certain difficulties.

In a personal letter to Yeltsin six weeks ago Kohl proposed starting the send-off in Weimar, one of the centers of German culture, and continuing it in the grounds of Berlin's Treptow Park. The leadership of the Western Group of Forces categorically rejects Weimar. The former Buchenwald concentration camp is in the vicinity of the city of Goethe and Schiller. In addition, Weimar was liberated by the Americans.

A compromise will most likely be found. After all, the farewell could also take place in Wuensdorf, near Potsdam, where the Russian troops' headquarters is located.

On 1 July Germany will take over the presidency of the European Union, and Helmut Kohl has already promised Boris Yeltsin that he will promote the question of Russia's joining the Council of Europe, using all his economic and political clout for this. Helmut Kohl constantly urges the West to treat Russia as a great power.

Everyone in Germany has made his own preparations for the Russian president's arrival. On the eve of it DER SPIEGEL published extracts from his book "On a Knife Edge," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND carried a lengthy interview with Aleksandr Rutskoy, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE printed an article by Gorbachev aide Anatoliy Chernyayev, and television's second program invited Nikolay Portugalov, a former CPSU Central Committee adviser, to speak.

The official program has ended up tightly packed, but it has repeated the route of one of Gorbachev's trips: political meetings in Bonn, a cultural program in Speyer with a visit to the famous cathedral, a brief private visit [uyedineniye] with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in his native Oggersheim, in Rhine Palatinate, and then Stuttgart, the capital of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Councillors at the German Embassy in Moscow have said that the visit should be rated a "nonconflict" visit or, as people used to say, a "friendship visit." Because there are no unresolved problems, still less disputes, between Germany and Russia today. All possible treaties and agreements have already been signed. Now it is only necessary to fulfill them and exchange opinions.

But, whereas all is in order with the treaties, it is evidently too soon to speak of a shortage of problems in bilateral relations. Almost 90 billion marks in aid has gone on nobody knows what. Economic ties are developing according to the old scheme. Trade remains monostructural. Russia exports mainly gas and petroleum products, while machine tools, motor vehicles, and food go in the other direction. According to the data for last year, more than 1,000 joint ventures have been registered—which is approximately 12 percent of the total number of joint ventures in Russia (the FRG occupies second place after the United States in terms of this indicator).

In the foreign policy sphere Russia and Germany have more reasons to strive to improve cooperation. This time Boris Yeltsin will not be able to avoid questions about the new concept of relations with NATO, as Pavel Grachev announced on the eve [of the visit]. People in Bonn and other European capitals have already been pondering the riddle set by the Russian minister of defense. What will a partnership of two very great military structures be like in real life? A great deal must be cleared up during the talks between Yeltsin and Kohl.

Yeltsin Says Russia, Germany Must Look to Future

LD1105064594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0619 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 May—Russia and Germany must look to the future. After the pullout of Russian troops from the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, a new stage of national reconciliation will begin between the two countries, said Boris Yeltsin today at Vnukovo airport before his departure on an official visit to Germany.

According to Boris Yeltsin, he will start the Russian-German summit with "the most difficult question": the procedure of the withdrawal of the Russian troops. There is no disagreement with the German side as to the timetable for the pullout. The president said it will be completed by 31 August. However, there are still differences on the procedure. The Russian side maintains that the last Russian troops will leave Germany from Berlin, while the German side says that they should leave from Weimar. "This is not the same thing," Boris Yeltsin stressed. [sentence as received]

Boris Yeltsin stressed particularly that in the social sphere Germany had met all its obligations with regard to construction of settlements for the military and accommodation for officers. "It is the only country to have taken this approach; moreover, additional social commitments worth 550 million German marks have recently been adopted."

Boris Yeltsin revealed that during the visit a wide-ranging package of documents on economic cooperation would be discussed and that a mutual return of cultural valuables would not be raised as a separate issue.

Yeltsin Comments on Arrival in Germany

LD1105103694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] [no dateline as received] "I am pleased to meet the German people, President Weizsaecker, and my friend Helmut Kohl with whom we are in constant touch by phone and letter," Russian President Boris Yeltsin told ITAR-TASS at Cologne-Bonn airport on arriving to pay an official visit to the FRG.

Speaking about the aims of his visit, Boris Yeltsin said, "This is a planned visit. We have to assess the results of the

work that has been done during the year since my previous visit to Germany in the political, economic, and social arenas. We also have to discuss the withdrawal of Russian forces from German territory." In this respect the Russian president recalled that the final date for the pullout, "up to the last soldier," has already been set as 31 August. "And we are proceeding exactly to schedule," the president said.

B. Yeltsin pointed out that 38 major joint projects have been drawn up since his last visit to Bonn. "The time has come to examine their implementation and also to discuss a couple of dozen future joint projects." In addition, the Russian head of state said, "We have to exchange views with the German leadership on the political situation in Germany and Russia and look at international issues, including flashpoints."

President Boris Yeltsin was met in the airport, bedecked with Russian and German state flags, by Heinrich Seimen [name as transliterated], the head of the protocol department of the German Foreign Ministry, and by Russian Ambassador to Germany Vladislav Terekhov and his German counterpart Otto von der Gablentz.

The automobile procession left the airport for the government guest house, Petersberg, where Boris Yeltsin will stay during his visit.

The official ceremony of his welcome, with military honors, will take place in the afternoon at Villa Hammerschmidt, the Bonn residence of the FRG federal president.

Kozyrev Views Russian-German Ties

LD1005204394

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 10 May 1994 broadcasts the 10-minute prerecorded series "Details," which is devoted to Russian-German relations in the context of Yeltsin's 11 May visit to Germany. Announcer Sergey Dorenko asks: "Why is Yeltsin going there? What do the Germans want from him?" After reminding viewers that the Germans have problems of their own to deal with, without being too concerned about those of Russia, Dorenko focuses attention on the fate of Chancellor Kohl. He says: Most people think he will lose the October elections, so maybe Yeltsin is going to talk to a lame duck. Perhaps the visit is a waste of time.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who then appears on screen, disagrees: "If we are talking about the figure of Chancellor Kohl himself, I should not be in any hurry to say that there is bound to be a change of leadership in October. We are nowhere near the elections yet. Before the elections, there is still the G-7 meeting. Before the elections, there is still the troop withdrawal, which is to be not only a line drawn under the past, but also the definite start of something in our future relations. So there is plenty to work on before October."

In any case, as Dorenko points out, Yeltsin will be able to meet Kohl's possible successor. He will be talking to members of the opposition. This was, in effect, confirmed by Kozyrev, who says: "We always meet representatives of all parties—always."

The main bone of contention at the moment is the question of how the Russian troops will take their leave of Germany. Presidential adviser Dmitriy Ryurikov says: "The troop withdrawal and the farewell to the troops is a very important symbol, a symbol of the great period that is coming to an end and a symbol of what we hope will be the still more significant period that lies ahead. So, such symbols must be very carefully thought out and fine-tuned, and they can be discussed. President Yeltsin and Chancellor Kohl will have enough time for discussion. Probably both for the Germans and for the Europeans, a troop withdrawal and a farewell to the troops in Berlin is the most understandable symbol."

Dorenko then reminds viewers that the Germans wanted the farewell to the Russian troops to take place 350 km from Berlin [in Weimar] and a week before saying goodbye to the Western allies in Berlin.

General Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces, is not happy, Dorenko says, but is prepared to give way. As Burlakov puts it: "We will take part in the function, but, of course, if you like, maybe with a slight feeling of bitterness in that we cannot carry it out properly."

Dorenko then suggests, over video of Russian troops loading their equipment on to a train, that a compromise had been worked out, but no one was saying anything so as not to steal the leaders' thunder. "The compromise will be that the ceremony will take place in Berlin, but still earlier than the other allies, because the mechanics were worked out in Gorbachev's time, and Yeltsin won't be able to do anything about that legacy from Gorbachev."

In a further sequence from the pre-recorded interview with Kozyrev, Dorenko asks the foreign minister: "Is that scenario already being discussed, or are they preparing for you to arrive angry and then, you know, they will suddenly step aside while you charge on into empty space?"

Kozyrev replies: "No, I don't think they want us to arrive angry. They want there to be very serious summit talks. It is very important to sense what your partner is thinking. It is very important to understand your partner's logic, not just your own truth, but to see the other person's truth."

The final topic is that of the G-7 group. Was it on the way to becoming the G-8, with Russian participation? Although Russia's economic situation is far removed from that of the Germans, maybe the neighboring Germans would be able, after the summit, to explain to the distant Americans exactly what was going on in Russia. "That is the real benefit that we can derive from the visit," Dorenko comments.

Kozyrev reappears and says: "We have a sufficiently advanced understanding on that subject with our partners, which has been expressed in the fact that a Russian

representative has been invited to all stages of the preparatory process of the discussion of these political issues. In other words, it is not only the president who will work in an eight-leader format, but also, already at the preparatory stage, a group of eight experts on quite a high level are essentially at work, and they are preparing all these issues for discussion. I think that this is a very significant step toward turning the G-7 into the G-8."

Dorenko's final point is that no Russian officials have spoken to the program about economic cooperation, although it is of great concern to the Germans. When speaking to him earlier, Dorenko says, a group of German businessmen poured scorn on Russia's investment tax. "Imagine that you are a German," he cited one as saying, "and you are investing $100 million in Russia. For that piece of folly, you will also have to pay $32 million to the state. Meanwhile, President Yeltsin will almost certainly, as he did two years ago, urge representatives of business circles in Germany to come to our country with their money," Dorenko concludes.

Implications of GATT Membership Assessed

PM1105121994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 May 94 First Edition p 6

["Own Information" article: "The New Order. Rich and Poor Countries Stand By Their Interests"]

[Excerpts] The contours of the new world economic order have been outlined in the Moroccan city of Marrakech where a meeting has been held of trade, foreign, and agriculture ministers from 112 of the 125 countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and also countries with associate member status.

Russia, which has lodged an application to join the agreement in June this year, participated in this meeting as an observer and carefully following the course of the sessions. In the opinion of foreign economic relations specialists, the Russian Federation's entry into GATT has enormous significance from the viewpoint of integrating the country into the world economy. Let us remind readers that approximately 90 percent of the total volume of world trade is handled by GATT member countries, whose collectively formulated decisions ensure greater predictability of trading volumes. It is no secret that Russia is encountering harsh protectionist measures from international markets designed to prevent its commodities being imported. This applies in particular to Europe, which receives the majority of our country's trade turnover. In order to uphold the interests of our domestic enterprises on the world market and negotiate with our trading partners on an equal basis (in accordance with procedures formulated by GATT over the decades), we need to participate in GATT, an organization which we intend to tie ourselves to—following established practice—not for weeks or months but for a much lengthier period of time. [passage omitted]

For Russia, full GATT membership will mean that it will become impossible for us to arbitrarily set import tariffs designed, generally speaking, to protect our domestic producers' interests. [passage omitted]

ITAR-TASS Views Russian-U.S. Drill in Totsk

LD1005145794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—The question of U.S.-Russian command-staff drill at the Totsk grounds, the Orenburg region, remains open.

The State Duma has requested President Yeltsin to revise the drill expediency, bearing in mind "the Russian social-economic situation and progress towards civic peace". On the eve of signing the Civic Accord Agreement, the president said he understands the Duma's concern and recommended the defence minister to hold additional consultations with the U.S. side with due account of "the stand of Russian law-makers and the public".

The presidential statement provoked diverse reaction both in Russia and abroad. Chairman of the Duma defence committee and member of the Choice of Russia faction Sergey Yushchenkov is sure the decision on holding the drill is an "exclusive prerogative of the executive power, which has nothing to do with the State Duma," and the president's stand "testifies to the weakness of the executive power and its poorly-considered actions".

In his turn, presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov explained Yeltsin's stand with his striving for foreign and domestic political decisions to help the consolidation of civic accord. He denies the president's concessions to "certain forces", or, the more so, a certain cooling of the Russian leadership to the United States.

Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko told ITAR-TASS that "any politician should strive for increased combat readiness of the armed forces, and all means are important in this respect, including a possibility to interact with other armed forces". In his opinion, the drill should be held, and forces outraged with "the Yankee stepping on Russian soil" should understand "the Yankee is not an occupant but an ally".

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev thinks the same. "The drill must be held to bring the two peoples closer together if we really want to become partners and avoid the return to the cold war. The Totsk drill is symbolic," it will include only 200 servicemen on each side and a small quantity of materiel.

The aim of the drill is to practice the organization of joint peace-making posts in separation, evacuation of wounded and delivery of humanitarian aid. "We must hold the drill for the sake of those we are striving to protect by our peace-making operations," said Grachev.

Deputy Secretary of the Russian Security Council Lieutenant-General Valeriy Manilov thinks the drill can be held on the area of the Russian Western Group of forces or on the Pacific coast. In his words, the question will be revised

and all conclusions and proposals will be used in the final decision with due account of the public opinion.

The last word is to be said by the president.

Center Director Welcomes Russian-U.S. Exercises

LD1105080494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0653 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Director of the Russian Military and Analytical Centre, Aleksandr Konovalov, believes that joint Russo-U.S. exercises on the Totsk test-site near the city of Orenburg will help bring the people of the two countries closer together. In an interview with ITAR-TASS Konovalov said that any "statements against conducting the maneuvers are prompted, primarily, by situational and political considerations and do not meet Russia's national interests."

According to the military analyst, statements alleging that the U.S. intends to "find out" Russia's secrets during the exercises are groundless as well. He rejected speculations alleging that Americans are interested in obtaining documents about an air nuclear explosion above the test-site made by the former Soviet Union in the 1950s. According to Konovalov, the results of an investigation into after-effects of the explosion were made public and are no longer secret. Besides, a group of scientists had recently worked on the test-site and the results of their work were published and contain no secrets for the world public.

Konovolov believes that the exercises of peace-keeping forces are of principal importance since Russian troops will inevitably have to carry out joint peace-keeping operations, while until now Russian soldiers and officers had not received sufficient experience. There is nothing wrong if a battalion, a regiment or a division take a training course using methods worked out by the best experts and experienced officers from Russia and the United States, Konovalov said.

Such training exercises will help many Russian servicemen from a peace-keeping contingent to survive, he said. "The military will be offered a wonderful chance to communicate, to know each other better and it will be the best way of bringing the people of the two countries closer together, making war go back into the past," Konovalov said.

Yeltsin, Kozyrev, Grachev View Relations With West

LD1005155594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin in an interview with Interfax spoke of a prevailing atmosphere of partnership in the world arena and Russia's drive to establish such relations with its former adversaries of the cold war period, notably the United States.

However, he also called for vigilance. "While going ahead with arms reduction, we will be seeking military parity both with the United States and NATO", Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin pointed to the significance of new forms of military cooperation such as joint exercises adding that "we will hold them in an effort to beef up the spirit of friendly cooperation".

Yeltsin also pointed to the strategic partnership of the allied nations during the Second World War. However, he stressed that Russia must be treated as an equal because any other attitude was unacceptable.

For his part, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that Russia was not opposed to joining the NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace plan. "We are not the weaker side in negotiations and have no inferiority complex on that score", he said.

"In my view, Kozyrev went on to say, it is desirable that attempts must be made to approve a wider concept of Russian-NATO cooperation rather than a framework agreement." However, the minister declined to say when exactly Moscow intended to sign such a paper.

In an earlier interview with Interfax, Kozyrev said that Russia wanted a more serious program of partnership with NATO to meet the country's status and specifics. However, he denied that such a program would be an alternative to the Partnership.

Russia will formulate its position on Partnership later this month, Defence Minister Grachev told Interfax. Grachev is expected to outline it at NATO's headquarters in Brussels on May 24 following Yeltsin's approval of the Russian formula. The minister said Russia disagreed with parts of the Partnership plan.

At an earlier news conference in Moscow, Grachev said his ministry had decided to come up with a European security plan as an alternative to Partnership. He said Russian experts were given until May 15 to work out an appropriate document. The minister made it clear he had discussed the idea with Yeltsin himself.

Grachev: Sevastopol Needed as Fleet's 'Main Base'

LD1005220194

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan at 1700 GMT on 10 May in the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry carries a feature on the anniversary of the liberation of Sevastopol in World War II. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is quoted on the future status of the port:

Grachev says: "Sevastopol should be the main base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. We consider that in addition to Sevastopol, the fleet should also be based in Balaklava, Feodosiya, Kerch, and Donuzlav where the main forces of Russia's Black Sea Fleet are deployed and also where units and formations are stationed. It is clear that we do not have the right to, and we will not undermine the combat

readiness of the Black Sea Fleet, a battle-worthy and full-blooded formation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, as this would create a real threat to the security of Russia in this region. Nor do we have the right to worsen the already difficult social position of many Black Sea sailors."

Duma Official on Ukraine, Crimea Issues

LD1005185194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The chairman of the State Duma committee for CIS matters, Konstantin Zatulin, has warned against rushing presidential elections in Ukraine which would endanger calm and stability in the republic. In an interview with INTERFAX-Ukraine Tuesday, he pointed out he was referring to Russia's experience of aggravated relations between different branches of state power which should be taken into account in Ukraine.

"With great difficulty, we have surmounted the worst. Actually, the first stage of civil war in Russia has taken place," Zatulin was quoted as saying.

The interviewee said Russia would conclude "the most extensive agreements, the most extensive trade and economic ties" with Crimea.

A number of unsolved issues remain, the main one being the future of the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol, he said. "Without support from both Russia and Ukraine, Sevastopol will find itself in the most difficult situation," he said.

Zatulin did not preclude "Russia proposing to Crimea participation in a package of programs, in the first place economic ones." The Russian deputy has been participating in the Crimean parliament's session since its opening.

Commission Established for Trade With Crimea

LD1005151394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] A government commission led by Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin was formed in Russia for talks on economic cooperation and trade with Crimea. This was said in Simferopol on Tuesday at a session of the Crimean parliament by Chairman of the Russian state Duma Committee for CIS Konstantin Zatulin. In his words, in the near future "a Crimean-Russian interparliamentary group" is also expected to be formed.

Zatulin pointed out that "today there is a possibility to start a new history of Crimea." At the same time, he urged Crimean parliamentarians "to be more contained and to take balanced decisions needed for the prosperity of the Crimean Republic."

Russian Envoy Blames Estonia for Talks Impasse

LD1105103094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—The Russian-Estonian negotiations on the withdrawal of troops are now in a blind alley as concerns both military and humanitarian issues involved, head of the Russian delegation, Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today. No headway was made in last week's round of talks because of the "non-constructive approach of the Estonian side," the ambassador said.

"The Estonian side has gone back on its earlier statements which Russia regarded as a basis for the withdrawal of the troops before August 31," the ambassador said, referring to the statement made by the Estonian delegation head during the 14th round of talks, who went on record as saying that the agreed provisions concerning military pensioners remained in force despite the fact that they were at variance with some clauses of the law on citizenship of Estonia".

In the present situation there is no need to mislead the public opinion and continue "negotiations for the sake of negotiations". For this reason the Russian delegation has come up with a new proposal. Each of the for main working groups—on humanitarian and legal, military, economic, and border issues—must prepare new versions and formulas in May to pull the negotiations out of the impasse. Only when it becomes clear that serious shifts are in the offing, the date can be set for the next round of talks, the ambassador said.

Russia has no "excessive claims" concerning social insurance for military pensioners and their families residing in Estonia. Moscow's position on this is analogous to that it upheld in negotiations with Latvia. A mutually acceptable solution was found in those talks and Russia and Latvia signed a package of agreements, the ambassador recalled. The successful outcome was made possible thanks to the political will of the two countries and their readiness for sensible compromise solutions, he said.

Russian-Estonian Fishing Agreements Signed

PM1105093594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 May 94 p 4

[Report by Igor Petrov: "Fishing Quota Will Be Established in Baltic"]

[Text] After two years of painstaking preparatory work a package of agreements relating to cooperation in the fishing sphere has been signed between the Russian and Estonian governments.

One of these agreements is designed to promote the normalization of fishing in the Baltic while another concerns the reciprocal use and safeguarding of fish stocks in inland border lakes.

The agreement, signed for a period of five years with an automatic extension, in contrast to many similar documents also contains a mechanism for monitoring the documents' punctilious fulfillment. In the opinion of Vladimir Korelskiy, chairman of the committee for fishing, the next step will be to establish scientifically substantiated fishing quotas in the Baltic and to elaborate

measures to safeguard a fish rated as a delicacy—the smelt—in the Chudskoye, Teploye, and Pskovskoye Lakes.

What draws the attention is the fact that the agreements on the solution of practical isues affecting the two countries' interests were signed before Russia and Estonia had unanimously decided to establish offifcial borders between the states.

Obviously fishermen understand better than politicians that while the case drags one the fish, which recognize no state borders, could be swimming off other shores.

Russian, French Paratroops To Hold Joint Exercises

LD1105104294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Vlasov]

[Text] Pskov May 11 TASS—A delegation of French military officials arrived by plane here on Tuesday evening to familiarize themselves with the way of life of servicemen of the Pskov Airborne Infantry Division.

They will visit the Division's quarters on Wednesday.

Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Sorokin, chief of the Russian airborne infantry forces, is accompanying the French delegation.

Sorokin and Major General Ivan Babichev, commander of the Pskov division in question, will do parachute jumps from an IL-76 assault aircraft on May 12.

In June, 90 French paratroopers from an airborne infantry regiment stationed near the town of Castres are to come here to participate in a joint exercise with the Russian counterparts. They will stay here for ten days.

Simultaneously, 90 Russian paratroopers from the Pskov Airborne Infantry Division will take part in a joint exercise in France.

Soviet Weaponry Reportedly Being Used in Yemen

LD1005222494 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1700 GMT 10 May 94

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan at 1700 GMT on 10 May, in a broadcast from the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry, reports that weapons which the USSR used to supply to Yemen are now being used in the current fighting.

The unidentified announcer says: "In Yemen there are now over 1,000 of our tanks. These are T-62, T-55, and T-54 models. In Yemen at present there are about 800 Soviet-made artillery combat vehicles and armored transporters. There are tens of our aircraft—Su-22, MiG-21, and MiG-23, and even surface-to-surface missiles, Scud, and SS-21 missiles. The Yemenis also have some of our Mi-8 and Mi-24 combat helicopters and our combat vessels." "Slavyanka" will report on how these weapons perform.

Diplomat Discusses Russians' Evacuation From Yemen

LD1005183994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] [Announcer Arina Sharipova] Recently, news bulletins have been devoting a great deal of attention to the evacuation of Russian citizens from Yemen. Quite a few questions on this topic have arisen and our correspondent Aleksandr Peslyak today met the high-ranking Russian diplomat [Foreign Ministry Department director] Viktor Posuvalyuk.

[Peslyak] In the diplomat's view, the evacuation of our fellow countrymen from Yemen was justified. After all, it was a matter primarily of the life and security of women and children and also of some experts whose presence was not vitally important.

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording] We have already evacuated some 340 people to Moscow. In addition, there are over 60 people in Djibouti and I believe that some 30-40 people are also under way from al-Hudaydah to Djibouti. [end recording]

[Peslyak] The diplomat admitted that even though the French, Germans, and Americans had left in large groups, Russians had not been evacuated by order.

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording] Now many need to be persuaded and people are weighing all the pros and cons, are looking closely at the situation, and making a decision sometimes at the last moment. [end recording]

[Peslyak] And, for instance, 100 Russian women with children who are residing permanently in Yemen, did not board the French navy vessel the day before yesterday. So, people themselves can choose whether to take the risk staying. Regarding the situation as a whole, in Posuvalyuk's view, it is not the ethnic or the religious factor which caused the civil war, but the alienation of the power structures of the north and south, the incompatibility of the economies of the two parts of Yemen, the falling-out of the commands of the two independent armies, and, as a whole, the building of different models for socio-economic and political development. Fighting at the point where North and South Yemen meet has subsided and the diplomat believes the Arab League could now effectively play a peacemaking role.

19 Russians Among 100 Leaving Yemen

LD1105121694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—100 foreigners, including 19 Russians, will leave Yemen aboard a Russian plane which left for Djibouti on Wednesday.

The foreigners were evacuated from Yemen and are now awaiting the plane aboard two Russian vessels docked in Djibouti—the "Nikolay Tikhonov" and the "Khudozhnik Kustodiyev".

TASS was told by the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations that the evacuation of Russians from Yemen is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Russia Plans To Deliver Aid to Rwandan Refugees

LD1105130094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Ryklina]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—A group of experts from the Russian Ministry for Emergencies flew to the Tanzanian capital of Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. At the request of the office of the U.N supreme commissioner for refugees, Russia will participate in the operation to provide those who are fleeing the bloodsoaked Rwanda with humanitarian aid.

According to a spokesman for the Russian Ministry for Emergencies, the experts will examine the routes and conditions for Russian drivers who are expected to deliver foodstuffs and medicines for Rwandan refugees.

The Russian transport team has already worked in the former Yugoslavia. However, the tropical climate, health hazards, difficulties with the delivery of heavy-duty Kamaz trucks by air and unloading them require specific preparations.

The Russian drivers are expected to start the deliveries this month.

U.S. Policy in Haiti, Possible Invasion Viewed

PM1105100794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 94 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "U.S. Seeks Company for Invasion of Haiti"]

[Text] Washington—The United States has stepped up pressure on the military regime in Haiti in a big way. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is touring Central and Latin America, has continued the campaign started at the end of the week by President Clinton's pronouncements.

Apparently, the secretary of state's task is to rally American countries to such an extent that they allocate military contingents to overthrow by force the regime that has held sway in this island state since the expulsion of democratically elected President Bertrand Aristide.

Although the U.S. Administration acknowledges that the people will be the chief victim of any blockade, it is intensifying the blockade stranglehold as the final means of exerting pressure before a direct military invasion. At the end of last year U.S. marines were on the verge of launching an assault on the Haitian coast, but the White House withheld the order to attack at the last minute. In accordance with Bill Clinton's doctrine, the United States does not intend to participate in any peacemaking operations (that also involve measures to restore democracy and the rule of law in foreign states) unless it is as part of a coalition.

The United States has frozen the Haitian leaders' deposits, banned them and members of their families from visiting the United States, and confined flights from Haiti to the United States to commercial flights, carried out in accordance with schedules that were apporoved a long time ago.

One factor that has contributed to the hardening of the U.S. line is the Haitian military authorities' gradual strengthenning of their regime. It is claimed that the military's reign of terror has led to a sharp fall in support for exiled President Aristide.

The success of Secretary of State W. Christopher's trip will to a large extent determine the date of the U.S. military invasion of Haiti. An invasion by U.S. forces without the support of allies on the continent, symbolic though it may be, is considered unlikely.

Special Envoy Views Middle East Peace Process

LD1105131994 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Here is an interview given by the Russian president's special envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk on the Middle East situation. Viktor Posuvalyuk heads the Middle East and Africa section in the Russian Foreign Ministry. We asked him to share with us his opinion about the prospect of the introduction of Palestinian self rule after the signing in Egypt of the Israeli and Palestinian agreement relating to Gaza and the town of Jericho. Here is the exclusive interview he granted us.

The Russian leadership and the majority of the population are overwhelmed with the signing in Cairo of an agreement on Gaza and the town of Jericho. The agreement is already being implemented. According to the Russian diplomat, the essence of this step is that it is the beginning of a practical advance toward a final agreement in the Israeli and Palestinian negotiations direction and toward an autonomy for the Palestinians [as heard]. Simultaneously, it is an advance toward more security for the Israeli population.

Now it can be said that the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, will have to assume control of the territories from where the Israeli troops and police are pulled out. The task here is of a multifaceted nature including the domestic needs of the population. These problems are particularly acute in Gaza.

Further on, the Russian diplomat said that Russia wished that a switch to a Palestinian administration was not accompanied with any internal Palestinian confrontation or an escalation of strife. Russia will expect that on the contrary there will be an active political force in these territories that will support the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho.

We in Russia will warmly welcome it if there is a consensus and mutual understanding between the Palestinians and the leaders of the PLO, the leading officers of the Palestinian policemen, and such organization as the HAMAS [Islamic Resistance movement] and other Palestinian political figures who hold a more radical view [as heard].

This is no time for arguments or bloodshed. This is time to begin solving actual problems of the Palestinian people. It is

time to move toward peace. [Words indistinct] that the agreement on Gaza and Jericho as the beginning of the implementation of the agreement signed in Washington last year, will firmly serve the aim of peacemaking, calmness, and toning town the pitch of passions inside Israel itself.

Concluding his interview to Radio Moscow, Viktor Posuvalyuk said that Russia supports the Rabin government's policy directed at finding a political settlement of the issue and ensuring peace in this Middle East region. At the same time, Mr. Posuvalyuk stressed, it is necessary to mention all the other negotiations, among which we still regard the Syrian one as one of the (?pilots) in the Middle East peace efforts.

I can confirm here that Russia has taken and will take in this direction a most energetic part in bringing peace to the Middle East.

Commentary Views Economic Ties With PRC

OW1105065894 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By station observer (Masenko); from the "Half An Hour With Wang Xiao" program]

[Text] Listeners-friends: In 1993, trade between Russia and China hit a record $7.7 billion, roughly one-third more than in 1992. China is Russia's second largest trading partner after Germany. Station observer (Masenko) notes: In discussing economic cooperation and trade between Russia and China, we should note qualitative changes that have taken place in this respect. While bilateral trade was exclusively carried out by the government in the past, close to 80 percent of trade is now being conducted directly by enterprises that are partners. Russia's export structure has undergone favorable changes, with substantial decreases in the export of raw materials and increases in the export of machinery products to China. The export volume of machinery products, for example, accounted for approximately 40 percent of Russia's total export volume to China last year.

Our country's manufacturers of electrical appliances and machinery have secured a solid foothold in the Chinese market. Some 170 million people in China are still without electricity. China's electricity shortage has greatly impeded econonic development. The energy development plan adopted by China has provided Russia with tremendous possibilities. With Russia's assistance, China is now building three large thermal power stations and will complete all 23 [as heard] powerful thermal power plants over the next few years. Moreover, Russia will help in the construction of a nuclear power plant in the northeast province of Liaoning. In addition to power generation equipment, China purchases automobiles, aircraft, metalworking machine tools, and construction technology from Russia. The main strengths of various technologies developed by Russia are very reliable; they are easy to apply and their costs are reasonable. They often play a decisive role for China's import units.

Despite growing trade between the two countries, the two sides have yet to score substantial achievements in making investments in each other's country. Russia now has more than 300 joint ventures, of which only a few dozen manufacture goods and provide services; the majority are engaged in trade and serve as agents. The adoption of a prudent approach by the Chinese people is completely understandable. Russia is in an economic crisis; it offers no reliable guarantees for investment because it frequently changes its laws on foreign economic activities. All this is not conducive to the massive infusion of foreign capital into our country.

There are also other problems in the trade contacts between Russia and China. The two sides have openly discussed these problems but also say that they should be aware of key advantages in spite of the difficulties; that is, objectively speaking, Russia and China need and complement each other. Russia has the goods that China needs badly, and China can provide Russian with the goods it needs. Our two countries share many common points, among which are a common border extending more than 4,000 kilometers and largely similar problems that should be resolved during the process of economic reform. In the 1950's, China laid the foundation for its industry with the assistance of the former Soviet Union, which was actually Russia; this also played a certain role. It is impossible to rewrite the aforementioned segment of history. As their relations have entered a phase of cooperation based on equality and reciprocity after the two countries ridded themselves of ideological dogma, China cannot forget the assistance provided by Russia, and the two sides hope to maintain their partnership and ensure that their trade contacts will expand steadily over the long term.

Japanese Visit South Kurils Without Visas

LD1105085194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo May 11 TASS—This year's first group of Japanese has left for the South Kurils in accordance with the programme of the visa-free exchanges between these Russian islands and Japan, which began two years ago.

The ship, which sailed today from the port of Nemuro, north Hokkaido, to the Kunashir island, is bringing in 48 people, including 24 former Japanese inhabitants of the Kuril Islands, nine representatives of the national movement for the return of the "northern territories", and 15 journalists.

During their stay on the Kunashir island, the Japanese guests will meet local inhabitants, will visit a secondary school and several enterprises. Like the previous groups of Japanese guests, they will live in the homes of local citizens. The delegation will return home on May 13. This year's second group of Japanese visitors will come to the Kunashir island on the next day after its arrival in Japan.

The third season of visa-free exchanges began for the citizens of the Kuril Islands this April, when Hokkaido was visited by this year's first group of Russians. The same number of people is expected to take part in visa-free exchanges between the two countries this year as in 1993, that is 400 people from each side. A distinctive feature of the 1994 season is that this year's delegations will include more specialists, able to use their trips to the neighbouring country to exchange professional experience.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Appeals to Deputies for Cooperation

LD1005130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1058 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 10 May (ITAR-TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin of Russia signed a federal law 8 May "On the status of a deputy of the Federation Council and the status of a deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly." In this connection the president of Russia also sent a letter to deputies of the Federation Council and the State Duma. The text of this document, which was released by the presidential press service today, follows:

"Esteemed deputies!

"Today I signed the federal law 'On the status of a deputy of the Federation Council and the status of a deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly'.

"This was a difficult decision, in as far as some juridical aspects evidently require further revision and some are not in line with the Constitution; and there are prerequisites which the electorate could justifiably condemn.

"But there is something else I understand, too: you and your aides need of the law as a whole, it is necessary for effective legislative work.

"At the same time I understand that we need to live not only in accord with one another, but also in accord with the Constitution and the law. I am therefore following up this letter with a list of amendments which would have been submitted to you had I rejected the law. As guarantor of the Constitution, I propose you should suspend the validity of those normative acts which contravene the Constitution. Following this, I believe it to be necessary to examine the proposals submitted, including those which fall within the context of conciliation procedures, and to adopt these as amendments to the law currently in effect without waiting for decisions of the Constitutional Court.

"I regard this decision as one of the steps toward implementing the Treaty on Public Accord. I therefore believe it is necessary to make this letter public.

"Esteemed deputies! I am counting on your wisdom and understanding, and I hope for further fruitful cooperation."

[Signed] B. Yeltsin.

'War of Monsters' Between Security Ministries Denied

LD1105091194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Rumours about "a war of monsters" are over-exaggerated, spokesmen for the Russian Interior Ministry and the Federal Counterintelligence Service, Vladimir Vorozhtsov and Aleksandr Mikhaylov, told a briefing in Moscow today.

They were referring to press reports about criminal proceedings initiated by the Federal Counterintelligence Service against some high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The spokesmen said the federal service had indeed detained some officials, including the former official of the Directorate for Punitive Action of the Moscow region administration, a senior investigator and a lawyer. They were caught in the action while handing over a major sum of money in hard currency and later charged with an array of crimes. But this does not amount to a war between the ministry and the federal service, the spokesman said.

Last year 359 criminal proceedings were initiated against security officials, mostly by the Interior Ministry. Twenty-two legal actions were brought jointly with the Federal Counterintelligence Service. This year 142 crimes were registered by the Interior Ministry. In eight cases, action was taken jointly with federal service agents.

Yeltsin Edict on Labor Legislation Monitoring

PM1105090594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 May 94 p 3

[Russian Federation president's edict No. 850 "On State Oversight and Monitoring of the Observance of Russian Federation Legislation on Labor and Labor Safety"]

[Text] With a view to ensuring the guarantee of citizens' constitutional right to labor in conditions which meet safety and hygiene requirements and to stepping up oversight and monitoring of the observance of Russian Federation legislation on labor and labor safety, I decree:

1. That it be stipulated that until a legislative act is adopted on the state labor inspectorate, state oversight and monitoring of the observance of Russian Federation legislation on labor and labor safety is implemented by the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor's Federal Labor Inspectorate (Rostrudinspektsiya) and the state labor inspectorates of republics, krays, oblasts, cities of federal importance, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, rayons, and cities which are subordinate to it.

2. That the state labor law inspectors and state labor safety inspectors have the right to visit unimpeded enterprises, institutions, and organizations irrespective of their form of ownership, to carry out checks on the observance of Russian Federation legislation on labor and labor safety, and, within the procedure established by Russian Federation legislation on administrative law violations, to impose fines on employers, officials, and other responsible workers at enterprises, institutions, and organizations irrespective of their forms of ownership.

In implementing their powers state labor law inspectors and state labor safety inspectors are independent of state organs and officials and are guided only by Russian Federation laws and other normative legal acts.

3. The leader of the Rostrudinspektsiya is the chief state labor inspector of the Russian Federation, appointed to and released from his post by the Russian Federation president.

The leaders of state labor inspectorates and state labor law inspectors and state labor safety inspectors are appointed to and released from their posts by the Russian Federation chief state labor inspector.

4. The Russian Federation Government must within a month:

submit a draft statute on the Rostrudinspektsiya;

determine the procedure and terms for the remuneration, material and consumer backup, and medical services for state employees in the Rostrudinspektsiya central apparatus in line with the relevant procedure and terms stipulated for state employees in the central apparatuses of federal ministries;

submit proposals for the ratification of the International Labor Organizations's convention on labor inspection (1947) and the International Labor Organization convention on regulating labor issues (1978) and also for the modifying and supplementing the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic code on administrative law violations, the Russian Federation code of labor laws, and the fundamental principles of Russian Federation legislation on labor safety.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, Moscow, Kremlin, 4 May 1994.

Government Critic Travkin Promoted to Minister

MK1105071094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 May 94 p 3

[Leonid Brodskiy report: "A Minister To Be in Charge of Shakhovskoy Rayon"]

[Excerpts] Boris Yeltsin has chosen a form of encouragement of opposition party leaders that is rather unusual for Russian political realities. Late on 6 May, the president's press service circulated a communique on the appointment of Nikolay Travkin as member of the government. The Democratic Party leader has become the first minister without portfolio in the history of modern Russia.

Nikolay Travkin, 48. Leader of the Democratic Party of Russia; head of Moscow Oblast's Shakhovskoy Rayon administration since 1992. Received secondary education at the Building Technical School in Klin, and higher education at the Pedagogical Institute in Kolomna. A Hero of Socialist Labor. [passage omitted]

Boris Yeltsin's haste in appointing Travkin to a position that does not yet exist is quite easily explainable. Travkin, who usually criticizes the government rather sharply, has surprisingly easily agreed to accept this figurehead position for purely juridical reasons. Being a State Duma deputy, he has no right to combine work in parliament with the duties of head of administration of Shakhovskoy Rayon. Now that he has the status of minister, he can do so. As for Boris Yeltsin, this gave him a fine opportunity to demonstrate his magnanimity toward leaders of the opposition who, in moment of need, show loyalty necessary for the president. In other words, Travkin's appointment as member of the government can be seen as a payment to the Democratic Party of Russia leader for having signed the agreement on social accord.

"The odd man out" in the story of the appointment of a new member of the government is, paradoxically, the head of government. Rumors of the impending replacement of Yefim Basin, chairman of the Construction Committee, with Nikolay Travkin that appeared shortly before the signing of the agreement could not naturally go past the premier. It is, however, obvious that he could not consent to the replacement of a politically loyal and experienced construction general (Basin in the past was in charge of the Baykal-Amur Railroad project) with a half-teacher, half-builder. Viktor Chernomyrdin could after all prevent the negative impact of Travkin's appointment to a more important position in the government. But he has not yet succeeded in solving the other problems—which job in the White House would correspond with Travkin's present status (in addition to running Shakhovskoy Rayon), and what to do about potential ministers without portfolio Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Gennadiy Zyuganov, and Mikhail Lapshin who have not yet signed the agreement.

Communications Union Leader on Financing Problems

MK1105075094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 May 94 p 2

[Andrey Nikolayev report under the "Airwaves" rubric: "Government Intends to Stop Paying for Commercial Television and Promises to Communications Workers Preferential Electricity Rate"]

[Text] Anatoliy Nazeykin, chairman of the Russian Federation Communications Workers Trade Union Central Committee, has stated in a press conference that the Russian Government will look at the problems of radio and television at one of its next sessions. According to him, this session is supposed to determine a specific duration of state programming and the sums to be earmarked for it.

According to Anatoliy Nazeykin, Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, speaking at a recent conference on the operation of Russian post offices and problems of the television and radio broadcasting complex, held with Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak and acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin taking part, already let it be understood that "the government intends to appropriate money only for state-ordered programming," meaning those programs that society needs most of all in the opinion of the country's leadership. As has been made clear, such would be children's programs, sports, general education, information-political, and a number of other programs of educational importance. The broadcasting of ads and commercial programs will be done "for the finances of those who need them."

In this question, as the trade union leader thinks, Viktor Chernomyrdin completely shares the position of the communications workers, who have repeatedly demanded that air time taken up by ads and commercial broadcasts be excluded from the state-order time and be paid for at negotiable prices, and that the resale to other customers of the air time meant for state-ordered programming and paid for from the federal budget be prohibited. Viktor Chernomyrdin also expressed readiness to solve the question of a preferential rate of payment for electricity for communications enterprises.

The government session is also expected to look at the question of increased budget financing in a bid to preserve the reception and transmission network of television and radio communications enterprises on the basis of the minimal duration of broadcasting worth up to 1.5 trillion rubles instead of the 679 billion provided for in the draft budget. Today this is one of the main demands of communications enterprises work collectives, "therefore the trade union's Central Committee leaders intend to insist that it should be acted upon," Anatoliy Nazeykin has stated.

Essential Freight Fund for Komi Republic

LD1005202694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 10 May 94

[from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Our correspondent Yevgeniy Kuznetsov has reported from Syktyvkar that today the federal government of Russia set 20 billion rubles aside for the Republic of Komi to enable essential freight to reach the north of the republic.

What was also achieved is that the money, bypassing the banks, will be paid directly into the accounts of administrative bodies of the towns and villages concerned.

Baburin Loses Round One in 'KGB' Case

PM1105085794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 94 p 2

[Maks Khazin article: "Court Valued S. Baburin's Honor and Dignity 25 Times More Cheaply Than He Himself"]

[Text] The first court series in the protracted process of examining Sergey Baburin's suit against IZVESTIYA and retired KGB General Oleg Kalugin in respect of protecting his honor and dignity has ended. He was prompted to turn to the court by O. Kalugin's public statement to the effect that in the past S. Baburin had been recruited by the KGB as an agent. The statement was made at the conference "The KGB: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" organized by the "Glasnost" public fund and was at once carried by many mass media, including IZVESTIYA.

Not that Baburin turned to the court right away. First he sent a letter to the Russian General Prosecutor's Office proposing that criminal proceedings be instituted against the offender for slander under Article 130 of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic Criminal Code.

No grounds were found, however, to throw the KGB ex-general behind bars, although the deponent was told that the Ministry of Security had no information about his, Baburin's, secret cooperation with it. Possessing this information, IZVESTIYA told its readers about it in the article "Not Discovered in the Lists of Agents..." (No. 206, 28 October 1993). You might think that this was the end of the conflict and that the honest name of the plaintiff was restored. Not at all. He not only continued to insist on a court investigation but also raised the stakes: He increased the price of his honor and dignity from 10 million rubles [R] in the original version of the suit to R100 million.

The first information in IZVESTIYA about the distinguished agent appeared 23 February last year in S. Mostovshchikov's reportage "Yesterday the KGB, Today the Russian Ministry of Security, Tomorrow the KGB Again?" The court did not summon that author as a respondent. Rightly so: The law "On the Mass Media" frees both an editorial board and a journalist from the responsibility to reproduce speeches by delegates to various conferences, congresses, and plenums.

Nevertheless, at the final stage of the process the court nominated another respondent—journalist Nataliya Gevorkyan. In the article "KGB Agents Can Sleep Soundly" (IZVESTIYA 27 February 1993) she had reproduced the same Kalugin speech and taken advantage of her professional right to expound her own personal views and judgments in this regard. She paid the price.

The testimony of witness K. Gorbunov, who once "served" Omsk University along KGB lines, sounded impressive: "I did not recruit Baburin." Answering a question from a representative of the editorial board, however—if another plaintiff, really an informant, had been in Baburin's place, would he, Gorbunov, have imparted this to the court?—he replied honestly: No, I would not have told it, despite having given a written undertaking accepting responsibility for giving false evidence.

Kalugin's interests were defended by well-known attorney B. Kuznetsov. He asked the court to listen to tape recordings of conversations with another chekist (he preferred not to appear before the court), who in fact spoke about secret cooperation between the KGB and the dean of Omsk University's Law Faculty. Unfortunately the court refused this.

This was not, however, the only motiveless refusal to satisfy defense pleas. Kuznetsov submitted a document to the court—Order No. 00140 of the USSR KGB chairman of 4 July 1993 [date as published] approving the "Statute on the Agency Apparatus and Fiduciaries of USSR State Security Organs." It turns out that "the basis of the agency apparatus is...made up of Soviet citizens devoted to the cause of communism and to the socialist motherland." They can be "CPSU members who are capable, in terms of their political, moral, and businesslike data and potential, of ensuring successful leadership of a group of agents or fiduciaries." It is obligatory to be "politically competent, to possess tough qualities and the ability to convince

people and to exercise the necessary influence over them." And, of course, "sincere warmth, benevolence, and the ability to achieve profound mutual understanding with people" are definitely important features of a secret staffer.

Impressive, is it not? But this is still not everything. In the section "Work with Agents" we read: "An agent must be disciplined, show resourcefulness and initiative, and be able to operate independently"; "an agent, regardless of the form of recruitment, must be characterized by honesty and loyalty to the obligations given to KGB organs." In the opinion of the defense, anyone who has so many virtues has no right to complain that moral harm has been done to his honor and dignity. On the contrary, it is only possible to take pride in such a range of positive qualities, since by no means everybody possesses them.

Respondent Kalugin went still further. In his view, he not only did Baburin no harm with his expose but did him a good service, strengthened his political positions among like-minded people, and helped him to pick up additional votes in the last elections—for which the plaintiff should be grateful to him and certainly not take him to court. He also asked leave to submit the famous order (the editorial board's representative joined in with this petition), but Judge S. Varenova refused. Now this undoubtedly important document (just like the tape recordings) will appear in the case only if there is an appeal.

Another argument of the respondents is interesting: Agents were legalized by the Russian Federation Law "On Operational Investigative Activity," which was also adopted by Baburin, deputy of the former Supreme Soviet. How, then, can information about a person's lawful activity discredit him?

Kuntsevskiy Intermunicipal People's Court did not satisfy Baburin's material demands in full, but it obliged Kalugin to apologize in the pages of IZVESTIYA and exacted from him R1.5 million in favor of the plaintiff, as well as state costs in the sum of R225,000. R2 million and R300,000 respectively were levied on IZVESTIYA. They even took R500,000 for moral harm and R75,000 in state costs from N. Gevorkyan, who turned up right at the end (and to whom, incidentally, they never bothered to present a copy of the statement of claim, as laid down in law).

The state costs are particularly touching: They are not exacted at all in cases in this category. Although Judge Varenova might well not have known this, since this was the first time she had examined such a case. But IZVESTIYA has addressed this problem repeatedly, insisting that state costs be exacted when the statement of claim is lodged, as in all other civil cases. This would undoubtedly restrain the money appetites of those who pretend to be defending their honor while at the same time not forgetting about strictly prosaic worldly boons.

We will inform our readers of further movement in the case.

Economic Issues

Big Drop in Grain Output Forecast

LD1005172594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] In 1994, the output of grain in Russia will be no more than 50 percent compared to last year when its net weight was 99 million tons, the chairman of the Federation Council committee for agrarian policy, Vyacheslav Zvolinskiy, told INTERFAX Tuesday.

This year, grain crops will cover a little more than 60 million hectares and agricultural products manufacturers could harvest about 100 million tons "despite all our troubles."

However, farm workers failed to plough nearly one third of arable lands last autumn. As a result, they will have to plough up to 20 million hectares more this spring which alone will result in a loss of 15 million tons of grain, he said.

In addition, Russia had always spread 18-19 million tons of pesticides every year, a quarter of which was used for grain crops. This year, farms do not have more than 10 kilograms of pesticides per hectare. This will seriously affect the grain output, because every million tons of pesticides results in an additional 4-5 million tons of grain, according to expert calculations.

Large losses - about 2-3 million tons of grain - should be expected this year due to the poor condition of winter crops. To make matters worse, too few winter crops were sown in comparison with the last year. Another reason for the losses is poor maintenance of agricultural equipment and the lack of fuel and lubricants.

Zvolinskiy stated that taking this into account Russia could count on only 50 million tons of grain this year. Moreover, "the country will receive this amount only thanks to God and the selfless labor of Russian citizens who, despite the fact that the state has not paid for the grain it purchased from them last year, are doing their best not to leave the land unsown this spring," he was quoted as saying.

Ministry of Economy Releases Salary Statistics

LD1005163894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 10 May 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Olga Kostromina]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—An average monthly salary at Russian state enterprises amounted to 146,000 rubles (80 U.S. dollars) in the first quarter of 1994. It was 145,000 rubles in the material production sphere, and 148.3 thousand rubles in the non- production sphere.

The rates of salary increase amounted to 132, 124 and 132 per cent correspondingly as compared to the fourth quarter of 1993, sources at the Russian Ministry of Economy told BUSINESS-TASS here today.

An average monthly salary in the gas industry was 666,000 rubles (361 U.S. dollars) in March 1994 against the general background of 169,000 rubles (92 U.S. dollars), 416,000 rubles (226 U.S. dollars) in the oil-extracting industry, 367,000 rubles (199 U.S. dollars) in the mining industry, 122,000 rubles (66 U.S. dollars) in the machine-building, and some 100,000 (54 U.S. dollars) in the light industry.

An average monthly salary in health care lagged behind than in the production sphere by 20 per cent in January-March 1994, an average monthly salary in education lagged behind by 24 per cent, that in culture and arts—by 29 per cent, science and scientific services—by 22 per cent.

Staffers of crediting and insurance organizations had the largest salary in the non-production sphere in March 1994—over 380,000 rubles (206 U.S. dollars), the smallest salary was in the culture and arts sphere—110,000 rubles (59 U.S. dollars).

The increase of consumer prices was compensated by an income increase by approximately 89 per cent in the first quarter of 1994.

The number of persons with an income less than the subsistence minimum is decreasing. The index is now 25.2 million people or 17 per cent of the Russian population as compared to 51.7 million or 34.7 per cent in the first quarter of 1993.

Statistics on Savings, Income, Spending

LD1005184694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 10 May 94

[by BIZNES-TASS correspondent Oleg Deyneko]

[Text] Moscow, 10 May—The total deposits by the population in Russia's Saving's Bank as of 1 March this year amounted to about 4.7 trillion rubles [R] and the average size of each deposit was over R20,000. The BIZNES-TASS correspondent was informed of this in the Ministry of the Economy of the Russian Federation. However, the proportion which this money represents in the total amount of the population's deposits in Russian banks is declining, and today comprises about 60 percent.

In the first quarter of 1994 the monetary incomes of the population of Russia were 8.8 times greater than the level in the first quarter of last year and amounted to R53.8 trillion. In comparable prices this amount corresponds to 60 percent of the monetary incomes of the population of Russia in the first quarter of 1991.

The population spent R37.5bn (69.8 percent) of the total on consumption—buying goods and services. This is 5.9 percent less than in the same period last year. The proportion of expenditure on acquiring foreign currency increased more than six-fold to 11.6 percent.

In the opinion of experts of the Ministry of Economy, this shows that a stratum of the population has been formed which has a very high and constantly increasing level of income. If one excludes from the population's total income the expenditure on acquiring foreign currency, it turns out that the monetary incomes of the overwhelming majority of the population in the first quarter of 1994 were 7.9 times greater than in the first quarter of last year. However, because of inflation the real incomes showed virtually no increase.

DELOVOY MIR: 'Foreign Investors Need Not Fear Tax'

LD1105082494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0648 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 11 May (ITAR-TASS)—Under the headline "Foreign Investors Need Not Fear Tax," today's edition of the CIS daily newspaper DELOVOY MIR carries excerpts from an official statement by the Russian Finance Ministry.

"Foreign investment in the form of resources remitted to joint ventures created within the Russian Federation or in the form of payment by foreign individuals and corporates for acquisition of securities of Russian businesses, and also loans and credits extended by foreign banks and lending institutions are not to be subject to value-added tax (VAT) or special tax," the document says. Also exempted from tax liability are resources gifted by foreign states to Russian businesses and organizations in the form of subsidies for specific programs. Pursuant to existing tax legislation, resources received from other businesses and organizations are subject to VAT and special tax, the newspaper says.

The exception is resources paid by founder investors into businesses' authorized capitals, and also for the purpose of joint business activities. Issue and transfer of loans, and also transactions concerning circulation of securities (shares, bonds, bills etc), are exempted from VAT and special tax.

Number of Strikes in Russia Decreasing

LD1005142494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Liliya Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—"The wave of strikes, which hit Russia in the first quarter of 1994, began to subside in the second half of April, when social tension in the work collectives of most of enterprises, organisations and institutions of the Russian Federation began to ease," ITAR-TASS was told by Vladimir Petrov, head of the labour conflicts service under the Russian Ministry of Labour.

However, according to data released by the foregoing service, a pre-strike situation is still in force at separate enterprises of the petroleum refining and defence industries, in the agroindustrial complex, and in the mining and metallurgical industries.

According to Petrov, the miners of Perm region, for instance, have still not received the 1.5 billion roubles owed to them by the state for unpaid wages. The agro-industrial complex of Orenburg region has not received

wages, amounting to 29 billion roubles, by the beginning of April 1994. Workers of the Dukat beneficiation [as received] combine, Magadan region, have not been paid wages for three months running.

As noted by the head of the labour disputes service, the question of financing defence enterprises is particularly acute today. According to the Russian State Defence Industry Committee, the workers of this sector of the economy had received wages only once in four months, and the state still owes some such enterprises the wages they should have received in 1993. Along with demands to pay the owed wages and to increase their overall earnings, the work collectives of this sector of the national economy call for the solution of problems linked with the size of the defence order, with the sale of military hardware abroad, with the easy crediting of defence enterprises and their switch-over to the production of civilian goods.

Former Finance Minister Warns of Deficit Dangers

PM1105081194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 94 p 2

[Article by State Duma deputy (and former Finance Minister) Boris Fedorov: "No Reason To Revise Somber Forecasts"]

[Text] On 20 April the IMF Board of Governors approved the granting to Russia of the second part of the "systemic" credit of $1.5 billion, while at the very end of April 1994 the State Duma received deficit "additions" to the budget. Highly symptomatic.

First, the IMF. On page 57 of the documents examined by the IMF council there is a curious table on Russia's implementation of its earlier pledges on financial stabilization and economic reforms as of the beginning of April 1994. The table contains 15 items, and on the right it shows the progress made in implementing them. Now, you will encounter "not implemented" nine times, "partially implemented" or "uncertain" twice, and "implemented" four times, and all four occasions relate to 1993.

There are various ways of interpreting the esteemed IMF governors' motives and the political factors that dictated the positions of, for example, the "big seven." But you do not exactly lack evidence that things are not as fine and dandy here as certain officials would have it.

Let us look at the recent statement by the government and Central Bank on economic policy in 1994. At least six times it states the intention not to fix a currency rate or prices, not to implement mutual offsetting of debts, not to resume import subsidies or preferential credits. It is important, of course, to give assurances of what "we will not do." But what "will we do"?

The most important measures are the promise not to give extensions on earlier credit issues any longer (interesting to see how this would work in the agrarian complex), hold more credit auctions, and reduce centralized exports and imports. Fine, but by no means enough. The 1993 policy can and must be continued, but the reforms must also continue.

The statement says that "the unification of the monetary systems of the CIS states with the Russian monetary system is possible only through the adaptation of the states' economic systems...." Vague, but at least it is clear that there is a need to adapt, and it will take many countries years to do that. But adaption suddenly occurred in just a few days. How do you explain the feverish signing of the agreement with Belorussia [Belarus]? Incidentally, this is not taken into account in the draft budget either from the viewpoint of inflationary processes or from the viewpoint of promised state credits.

Most important is the government's objective. In this case it is to reduce inflation to 7 percent in December 1994 from 8 percent in March at the time when the statement was prepared. Not very ambitious....

But even the figures that are cited prompt questions. The budget projections are fundamentally important. According to them, the federal budget deficit will not exceed 62 trillion rubles [R] in 1994. Now, at the end of April, we are being offered a further deficit of R6.4 trillion in Central Bank issues, mainly in the form of a concession to the agrarian lobby. An obvious trend.

It is interesting that even the IMF experts, in their report, indicated that income had been overstated and expenditure understated by at least R45 trillion, which it was intended to find through various taxation and other measures. I dare say that only a fraction of the income measures are at the adoption stage, and there is no question of any real revenue or real cuts at the moment.

My personal view is that the hidden deficit is of the order of R60 trillion. If you add to this R80-90 trillion in potential expenditure contained in laws, edicts, and decrees which no one has abolished, but which are not included in the budget, then the optimism dwindles even further.

The lack of real action, the creeping increase even in the acknowledged budget deficit, and the deferential treatment given to various lobbies are bound to cause alarm. I very much hope I am mistaken, but at the moment I see no reason to revise my somber forecasts. Once again we are on the path of rising inflation, devaluation of savings, almost total curtailment of investments, and absence of economies. And it is the poor who are hit hardest by inflation.

The government's latest actions to increase the deficit while doing nothing in the economic policy sphere could well make even the democratic factions in parliament stop supporting the draft budget, which is cleary becoming simply bad, having been only just tolerable. If a policy adjustment has begun, it will have to be carried out with the support of different forces.

Operation Helps Cut Fish Poaching in Far East

LD1005140694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—The preliminary results of the first stage of the poaching-control operation which ended on Tuesday, points to a sharp drop in fish poaching and theft of other marine wealth in Russian Far Eastern waters.

Nikolay Kudinov, commander of naval forces of Russian Border Troops, told ITAR-TASS today that Far Eastern sea borders are securely protected. "The great power will not put up with violations of international norms and rules any more," he stressed.

In the admiral's opinion, the operation will be also successful on the subsequent stages as well. "It is too early to sum up the final results, but one thing is clear: The operation will help protect Russia's national interests," Kudinov underlined.

The admiral expressed opinion that part of funds earned from anti-poaching activities should be channelled for the needs of units participating in the operation.

Zil Auto Works Resumes Work After Shutdown

LD1005195294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow, 10 May— After an enforced 10-day break ZIL's assembly line resumed work today. The shutdown was caused by financial difficulties arising from ZIL's inability to get its consumers to pay off their arrears and to settle its own debts with suppliers.

It is intended that in the next two months the car builders will be able to maintain the pace of production—180 trucks per day. Of course, the situation is not an easy one, ZIL deputy engineer-in- chief Vladimir Nosov told the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

Since the beginning of the year the workforce has been working in a special mode—a single four-day shift a week. The works' debts to suppliers in April amounted to 60 billion rubles, even though consumers owe the works even more. Production has almost been halved. Last year ZIL made 108,000 trucks and, even though this year contracts were concluded for 159,000 trucks, ZIL executives believe that if business carries on as it is now, ZIL will be able to sell only slightly over 50,000 trucks.

This is why an economic development program has been prepared now which, experts believe, will enable the recently formed "AMO ZIL" joint-stock company to survive. Its' President Yevgeniy Brakov said that it provides for legal and other measures to return the debt owned by the consumers, primarily from Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Today, 85,000 people are working at the enterprise—in the long-term it is planned to reduce this to 60-65,000 and to close a number of unprofitable plants and sections.

ZIL is also counting on its new technical policy: In particular it is intended to considerably expand the range of trucks both as regards horsepower and use. The first steps have been taken: The production has been mastered of heavy-freight truck-trailer combinations and tip-up trucks, before the end of the year it is planned to manufacture a commercial batch of these trucks with a load capacity of 2 - 2.5 tonnes. The managers of the enterprise believe that this tactic will make it possible to considerably increase the demand for ZIL products.

Military & Space Issues

Military Expenditure Increased in Draft 1994 Budget

LD1105075894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0630 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The expenditure of the military-industrial complex in the draft federal 1994 budget has been increased from 37 trillion to 50 trillion rubles. The draft is scheduled to be considered today by the State Duma. Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the Duma defense committee, said the amendment was introduced after a roundtable meeting of deputies and government members. The meeting was convened on 5 May after a personal request by Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin to President Boris Yeltsin.

Yeltsin Approves Spending Increase

LD1005151094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] President Yeltsin approved the recommendation by the defense committee of the State Duma on the necessity of increasing defense spending in the budget for the current year to 55 trillion rubles. The recommendation along with Yeltsin's "I consider it expedient to agree" were sent to Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin; according to a well-informed source in the parliament's budget, tax, banks and finance committee.

In the draft state budget presented by the government to the State Duma the item for defense totals 37 trillion rubles. Last week several rounds of consultations on this issue were held between representatives of the Duma's defense committee, the Defense Ministry, the Economics Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and the Security Council of the Russian Federation. These consultations were coordinated by the president's aide on national security Uri Baturin.

Yeltsin Endorses Growth

MK1105072094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 May 94 p 1

[Sergey Parkhomenko report in the "Lobbyism" column: "The President Agrees to a 1.5-Fold Increase in Russia's Military Budget"]

[Text] The defense lobby in the Russian parliament has apparently used the pause granted it by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly's spring holidays to the utmost. According to a participant in yesterday's session of the State Duma Council, over the two festive weeks a series of intensive consultations took place between leaders of the republic's Defense Ministry and the Duma Defense Committee on one hand, and representatives of the Russian Federation Economy Ministry and Finance Ministry on the other. Presidential national security adviser Yuriy Baturin took part in the negotiations on behalf of the Russian Federation administration. The subject of discussion was the proposal by the above committee, submitted officially to parliament as an amendment to the draft 1994 state budget whereby the overall limit of spending on defense items should be increased from 37 to 55 trillion rubles, i.e., almost one and a half times.

State Duma Budget Committee head Mikhail Zadornov refused to comment on these reports in detail, noting only that he "would be very cautious about any such proposals." Some of his colleagues, however, were more forthright: Journalists were told that the committee coordinating the entire discussion of the draft budget knows nothing about which sources the authors of the grandiose amendment intend to tap to compensate for the increase in state spending.

Nonetheless, the same sources indicate that President Yeltsin has been fairly well disposed toward the solicitation of the defense lobby. The text of the Duma committee proposal was sent to Viktor Chernomyrdin with an endorsement saying, "I deem it reasonable to agree" [sshchitayu tselesoobraznym soglasitsya].

The presidential resolution, it should be noted, appears extremely interesting owing to the peculiarities of Russian syntax which has confronted interpreters with just another puzzle of the "execute" and "pardon" kind [reference to phrase "kaznit nelzya pomilovat" which, depending on where the comma is placed, can read either "To be executed, cannot be pardoned" or "Cannot be executed, must be pardoned"]. Its exact meaning depends crucially on whether the original copy of the document has a period or at least a comma before the word "to agree." If so, then the lobbyists' success is almost a foregone conclusion.

Grachev Seen at Risk in Possible Reshuffle

MK1105073094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 11 May 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Kholodov report: "Star Fall at the Beginning of Summer?"]

[Text] The Defense Ministry caused a scandal on the eve of the holiday. Your MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent was not allowed to attend a festive press conference, in which the minister listed the Russian Armed Forces' accomplishments in the two years since their creation. This is how the Defense Ministry's Identify Friend or Foe system operates. And this despite the fact that Pavel Grachev himself has repeatedly asked in his press conferences: Where is such and such MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent, why has he not arrived?!

There is no wish to say anything at all—this is just awful, that's all. In addition, to all appearances the Defense Ministry is bracing for drastic changes just around the corner. Observers do not rule out that the reshuffle may affect even the minister. Reports about Boris Yeltsin's consultations on the subject with Andrey Kokoshin and Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov proved to be not entirely groundless. Having signed the "civil peace" agreement with his opponents, the president appears to have decided to exploit the respite to deal with the most "powerful" of all the power ministries following the special services reform.

The president's plans may have been prompted not so much by his disagreements with General Grachev on the Ukrainian issue, but by his wish to see rather a diplomat than a troop commander as his defense minister. If the CIS is to be substantially strengthened, an enterprise on which the president is clearly inclined to embark presently, the clever and subtle Generalissimo Menshikov [Tsar Petr the Great's lieutenant] is preferable as a right-hand man than Marshal Zhukov.

Cosmonauts Reduced Due to 'Financial Difficulties'

LD1005133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Veronika Romanenkova and Semon Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—Financial difficulties have led to the 50 per cent reduction of the number of Russian cosmonauts, trained for space flights, while trainings according to the "Buran" programme have been fully discontinued, because no launchings of this shuttle vehicle are planned until the year 2000.

"The six detachments of cosmonauts previously included almost 100 men, which is much more than needed by expeditions to the orbital piloted "Mir" station, planned until 1997," ITAR-TASS was told today by officials of the inter-departmental commission for ensuring the flight and exploitation of the "Mir" space laboratory.

Cosmonauts aged above 50, were the first to be laid off. Nevertheless, 54-year-old Gennadiy Strekalov, one of the most experienced cosmonauts, was left on the staff.

One will hardly have to wait long for a regular space flight after this reduction of the personnel, as it happened, for instance, with German Arzamazov, who remained a standby on the ground for 17 years running, or with Tamara Zakharova, who is now on maternity leave, waiting for her turn to fly.

The largest detachment today belongs to the Russian air force—17 men. The detachment of the "Energiya" scientific production society will number 12 men. The medico-biological institute also has its own 5-man detachment.

The fate of 12 cosmonauts, trained according to the "Buran" programme, is yet to be decided. They may be switched over to training for flights to the "Mir" station.

Go-Ahead Given for Sea-Based Space Launch Project

PM1105100394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 May 94 First Edition p 4

[Directive No. 624-r of the Russian Federation Government, signed by Russian Premier V. Chernomyrdin and dated 3 May 1994, Moscow]

[Text] 1. The "Energiya" Science-and-Production Association named for Academician S.P. Korolev shall be authorized to create in accordance with prescribed procedure, jointly with foreign participants, an enterprise to develop [razrabotka] a sea-based space rocket for launching various space devices.

2. The "Energiya" Science-and-Production Association named for Academician S.P. Korolev shall be given responsibility for coordinating the work of Russian enterprises and cooperating with Ukrainian enterprises in the creation of the above space rocket complex.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government.
[Dated] Moscow, 3 May 1994.

Russia To Help NASA Launch Probes to Pluto, Sun

LD1105095394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[Text] New York May 11 TASS—The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to launch automatic space probes to the planet Pluto and the sun with Russia's help. Alan Stern, representative of the administration, told ITAR-TASS by telephone that this project, dubbed "fire and ice", was now being discussed at top level in the United States and Russia.

According to Stern, the idea of enlisting Russian scientists and experts in the programme for the exploration of Pluto, the only planet of the solar system that has still not been reached by automatic probes, is explained by NASA's current financial straits. According to expert calculations, the cost of launching two space probes by means of the most powerful American "Titan" carrier-rockets, would by far exceed one billion dollars. This made the Americans think seriously about the possibility of launching the Pluto probes by means of the Russian "Proton" carrier-rocket.

However, Stern said that NASA's policy towards international scientific missions is that every side involved in them should make its own contribution, not merely provide its technology or render paid services. The Russians, he noted, did not like the idea of exchanging their Proton rocket for the right to instal on board the American probe its instrument, weighing not more than two kilograms, and to paste a label with a Russian symbol on the external surface of the probe. The Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences moved to "add" a Russian jettisonable sonde to each of the two American probes. They are to be released from the probes approximately 40,000 kilometres from Pluto and to descend: one on the surface of the planet and the other—on Pluto's natural satellite Haron. The sondes are to carry either equipment for measuring the composition of Pluto's atmosphere or photo- and cine- cameras.

NASA has still not decided what American equipment will be installed on board the probes, but experts of the Pasadena Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, who specialise in long-term projects for the exploration of planets of the solar system, move to install only four instruments.

Pluto is the most distant known planet from the sun. It was discovered 62 years ago. Its period of revolution around the sun is 250.6 years. The composition of the planet's atmosphere is unknown. Welsy Huntress, chief of the NASA department for studying the solar system, is sure that the Pluto fight programme should be among the first on the list of scientific priorities. NASA believes that it is inexpedient to further put off its elaboration. In order to direct a probe towards Pluto it is necessary to use Jupiter's gravitational field to boost it. This will be possible only if the space vehicle is launched in the period between 2001 and 2003.

The solar project also stipulates the launching of an American probe, which would split in two upon approaching the sun: into a Russian part carrying an optical telescope, and an American part—with instruments to study the physics of the plasma on board.

Federal Assembly

State Duma Reads Constitutional Court Bill

LD1105100694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Judges of the Russian Constitutional Court will remain in office for a term of 12 years. This is one of the key provisions of a draft law on the Constitutional Court which was adopted in the first reading by the State Duma on Wednesday.

The decision on the 12-year term in office was adopted following long debates. The accord was finally reached today as lawmakers voted for the resolution.

Another problem which caused unequivocal reaction from lawmakers was a provision suggesting that the president may offer candidatures to the post of judges of the Constitutional Court. Accord on this problem has been finally reached as well.

The draft bill on the Constitutional Court adopted in the first reading today is based on provisions of the existing Russian Constitution which were developed and made more concrete.

The Constitutional Court is the organ of state control, independently exercising judicial power by means of Constitutional Court proceedings. The main principles of the Constitutional Court are independence, collective approach, glasnost, competitiveness and equality of the parties concerned. The Constitutional Court consists of 19 judges appointed by the Federation Council on the recommendation by the president.

The State Duma has instructed the Committee for Legislation and Judicial Reform to finalize the draft until June 1, 1994 and submit it to the Duma for final approval.

State Duma Adopts Bill

LD1105092694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The Russian State Duma has adopted at its first reading the draft Federal Constitutional bill on the Russian Constitutional Court. The issue of judges' terms of office provoked a lot of controversy during the debate. The term of 12 years has been defined. The right granted to the president to suggest candidates for judges' positions in the Constitutional court was another important norm which also provoked a controversial reaction among the deputies. However, consensus was also achieved on this matter.

State Duma Rejects Rybkin Censure Attempt

LD1105081494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0746 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 May—The State Duma has refused a move by deputy Sergey Baburin to call into question the conduct of State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin over his signing of the Treaty on Social Accord. At today's Duma plenary session, Sergey Baburin proposed adding to the agenda Ivan Rybkin's performance as chairman, but he failed to attract the necessary number of votes.

In a brief speech from the floor, Sergey Baburin told his fellow deputies that the Duma chairman's act of signing the Treaty on Social Accord represents a distortion of the chamber's opinion.

Federation Council Approves Delegations' Composition

PM1105101394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 May 94 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed "Chronicle" report]

[Text] The Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly has approved the composition of Federation Council delegations in the following international parliamentary organizations:

the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation headed by Federation Council Deputy Chairman V.N. Viktorov;

the Parliamentary Assembly of the CSCE headed by Federation Council Chairman V.F. Shumeyko;

the North Atlantic Assembly headed by A.V. Vorobyev, member of the Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense Questions.

The Federation Council has made changes to the composition of several Federation Council committees in connection with the formation of the Federation Council Committee for Affairs of the North and Minority Peoples and the approval of its composition.

Duma Committee Fails To Decide on Draft Budget

LD1005171494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Lack of a quorum on Tuesday prevented the Committee on Budgets, Taxation, Banks and Finance of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, to take any decision on the draft national budget for this year.

The Duma on April 15 approved the main points in the draft, prepared by the government, though suggesting a few amendments to it. The government, around the end of the month, responded with a document over 40 pages long, which has already been considered by some of the lower house committees.

On Tuesday it became known that the Duma Committees on Economic Policy and on Relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States had proposed that the draft budget be turned down. The Defense Committee, for its part, suggested raising the military expenditure from 37 to 55 trillion rubles.

The Committee on Budgets, Taxation, Banks and Finance is also critical of the draft. Committee chairman Mikhail Zadornov said at Tuesday's meeting that the government had "effectively ignored" many of the recommendations made by Duma members. Thus, the house had said the document ignores social and economic forecasts for 1994 and fails to meet some of the country's social and economic priorities as formulated in President Boris Yeltsin's message to parliament. The Duma also said the draft, if passed, would impose heavier taxes on manufacturers and provide for unreasonable expenditure for the officialdom.

The committee, of whose 43 members only 19 came to Tuesday's meeting, decided to go back to the matter on May 12.

Duma Main Services Almost Shifted to New Building

LD1005112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—Main services of the Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) have almost completed the removal to a new building in the Okhotny

Ryad. The State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and his deputies began their working day in the new place today.

The shifting of deputies to the State Duma new building was preceded by its sanctifying by Archbishop Istrinski Arseniy with a group of clergymen, in accordance with a Russian Orthodox Church ritual. Meeting halls of the houses and premises which were already open by that time were also sanctified.

"We had decided that representatives of the patriarchate and his holiness himself will be permanent guests of the State Duma," house deputy chairman Valentin kovalev told ITAR-TASS. "During talks with Archbishop Arseniy, we spoke about a whole gamut of questions, which are impossible to resolve only on the level of knowledge, they need to be resolved at, what we call, the level of soul and heart," the duma official noted.

Kovalev emphasised that the Russian Orthodox Church has expressed readiness to render all kind of assistance to the State Duma. "Archbishop Arseniy reminded us that during complex periods of the Russian history, such as today, fathers of the Russian orthodox Church gave advices to statesman, and at present it will also not be superflous," Valentin Kovalev said.

According to Kovalev, the State Duma's shifting to the new place will be over within this week, as planned. The house deputy chairman noted that many premises are in need of repairs.

"We felt this after shifting here," Kovalev noted. "The system of communications is in a bad state. This worries the State Duma leadership more than anything else. There are problems with electric wiring, water pipelines and even the sewage system. Valentin Kovalev said that these question will be discussed at a meeting to be held next Thursday with the participation of the Moscow City Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

Poll Shows Yavlinskiy Popular With Duma Deputies

PM1105101994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 May 94 p 1

[Report from roundup of ITAR-TASS and INTERFAX reports]

[Text] Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has the highest popularity rating with State Duma deputies among politicians who could head the Russian Federation Government in the future. That is borne out by the results of a poll of 211 members of the Federal Assembly's lower chamber (82 percent of the members) conducted by sociologists of the independent "Mneniye" service.

Regional Affairs

Federation Council Delegation Visits Kaliningrad

LD1005140194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The creation of a special defense region, the reduction of and provisions for the troops withdrawn here were the main issues discussed during a two-day visit to Kaliningrad oblast by a delegation from the Federation Council, headed by Petr Shershov, chairman of the security and defense committee.

During meetings with the leaders of Russia's enclave oblast, with the command of the Baltic Fleet, and the 11th Army of the Russian border troops, the delegation discussed the possibility of Russia joining the international body regulating air traffic, which would considerably simplify the coordination with neighboring countries of military and civilian flights along designated passages. At the end of the visit the deputies' commission assisted at navy military training exercises.

Cossacks Object to Draft Dagestan Constitution

LD1005140094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhi Shamov]

[Text] Makhachkala May 10 TASS—The Kizlyar board of the Terek Cossack community, affiliated to the Russian Union of Cossacks, has objected to the draft of the new constitution of the Republic of Dagestan (southern Russia), which was put to nation-wide discussion by the republic's Supreme Soviet. A regular meeting of the board has ruled its adoption impermissible. This is due to the fact that the draft does not reckon with the interests of smaller nationalities and envisages the possibility of Dagestan's future secession from Russia, which contradicts the Constitution of the Russian Federation and is fraught with tragic consequences.

If the new constitution of the Republic of Dagestan is adopted in its present form, the Cossack board will rule it invalid on the left-hand bank of the Terek river and will demand the annulment of the decree of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Reoublic] Supreme Soviet of January 9, 1957, placing the Kizlyar, Tarum, and Nogaysk districts under Dagestan's jurisdiction.

The Cossacks have informed the president, the parliament, and the government of Russia about their decision, as well as the leadership of the Dagestan republic and the local organs of power.

No Visa Control Posts on Russian-Chechen Border

LD1005151494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The press secretary of the commander of the Russian border troops, Colonel Aleksandr Suvorov, told INTERFAX that visa control posts along the Russian-Chechen border cannot be opened. He said this in response to the proposal made by the Chechen Foreign Ministry to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

A Chechen diplomat referred to the fact that while crossing the border official government delegations of the Chechen republic "face obstacles."

According to Suvorov, under Article two of the Resolution of the Russian Supreme Soviet of March 1, 1993 the status of the Russian state border is given only to administrative borders with republics of the former Soviet Union. This article does not apply to Chechnya.

Currently, there are no Russian border troops along the administrative border of Chechnya and the Russian-Georgian border at its Chechen section. In this connection, no obstables to citizens, transport or cargoes can be posed by border guards in these parts, Suvorov said.

Banditry Halts Train Traffic Through Chechnya

LD1005133294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The management of the North Caucasus railway has suspended all train traffic through the territory of Chechnya because of a sharp increase in banditry on this stretch of the railway. Abramenko, our correspondent in Rostov-on-Don, reports that on 6 May, nine freight trains were looted in broad daylight. Damage caused is estimated at several billion rubles. All freight for Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Dagestan is now being stocked on safe stretches of the railway.

Deputy Russian Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray and Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev have been informed about the problem and about the measures taken by the railway management.

Nonpayments May Force Leningrad Nuclear Station Shutdown

PM1105102794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 May 94 p 1

[Report from roundup of ITAR-TASS and INTERFAX reports]

[Text] The Leningrad nuclear electric power station is on the verge of stoppage as a result of nonpayments by consumers of electricity, who owe the station 250 billion rubles.

International Affairs

Very Few Black Sea Fleet Units Remain in Odessa

LD1005190294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Head of the Odessa Military District press service, Vyacheslav Voronkov, stated in an interview with INTERFAX today that there were practically no Black Sea Fleet units remaining in Odessa.

He said the situation in the first brigade of defense of the Ukrainian Navy area (the former 318th Black Sea Fleet division) was calm. "The planned work was supervised by the new commander, Second Rank Captain Marchenko," Voronkov pointed out.

The Ukrainian Navy First brigade was set up on 12 April 1994, on the basis of the dismissed 318th Black Sea Fleet division. The Ukrainian military leadership undertook this measure after the division had got involved in the incident with the Cheleken boat which had withdrawn hydro geographical equipment from Odessa without the consent of Ukraine. A total of eighteen servicemen of the division (most of them are officers) refused to swear the oath of allegiance to Ukraine and expressed their desire to serve in the Russian fleet.

The Black Sea Fleet command repeatedly stated that it had warned the Ukrainian authorities about the boat leaving Odessa and considered this action as a seizure.

Voronkov said former commander of the 318th division, Captain First Rank Oleg Feoktistov and other officers unwilling to swear the oath of allegiance to Ukraine had been transferred to Russia to continue their service. Feoktistov will serve on Novaya Zemlya (Arctic Ocean). The others will continue their service in Novosibirsk.

National Affairs

Rukh Leader To Head New Centrist Bloc in Parliament

LD1005190894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The new composition of deputies of Ukraine's Supreme Council will begin its work on 11 May. An agreement on creating a parliamentary centrist bloc was approved at a meeting of leaders of several deputies' groups and factions. This was stated by Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of the Rukh group in the Supreme Council, at a news conference in Kiev on 10 May. He noted that representatives of the "Tsentr" [Center] group, the Rukh group, "Derzhavnist" [Statehood], and "Za Reformy Dlya Narodu" [in Support of Reforms for the People] had joined the bloc. Chornovil stressed that a meeting of the bloc will discuss the groups' positions on basic issues, which are to be submitted for parliament's consideration.

Comments on Presidential Powers

LD1005185694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] A group of members of Ukraine's newly-elected parliament are going to propose an amendment to the Constitution to strip the president of much of his authority, according to Rukh party leader Vyacheslav Chernovil.

In that case the president would only be the head of state and not the head of state and government as today, Chernovil told a news conference in Kiev on Tuesday.

He said it would hardly be possible to postpone the presidential election, something proposed by President Leonid Kravchuk, because a motion to that effect would need the support of at least 170 legislators and because the preparations for the 26 June election "have already gone too far." Nevertheless Chernovil expects the matter to be brought up at one of initial parliament sessions.

At the same time, he said he considered it "immoral" to hold a presidential election before the legislature delineated the future president's powers.

Chernovil said his party would not propose its own candidate to the post of parliamentary speaker "unless the Communists nominate their own candidate."

According to the Central Electoral Commission, Rukh has won 20 seats in the new parliament, or 5.9 percent of the total number.

Kravchuk, 3 Others Register as Presidential Candidates

LD1005133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1302 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Moroz]

[Text] Kiev 10 May TASS—Four candidates for the post of Ukrainian president have become known here on Tuesday, including Leonid Kravchuk. The other candidates include socialist leader Aleksandr Moroz, president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Businessmen Leonid Kuchma, and Parliament Speaker Ivan Plush, ITAR-TASS was told by vice-chairman of the Ukrainian Central Elections Commissions Valentin Kirnenko. He noted that all the candidates, according to preliminary information, had collected the 100,000 signatures, required to be registered as presidential candidate.

According to the same source, two would-be candidates have asked the central commission to give them more time to collect the needed signatures, but were refused. According to the legislation in force, a presidential candidate had to collect the needed signatures before 6 May. Moreover, he had to collect 100,000 "autographs" in 18 regions and not less than 1,500 in each of them.

Leader of one of the Ukrainian Rukh organisations Larisa Skorik voluntarily gave up the race. According to some

reports, she plans to campaign for Leonid Kravchuk. The Ukrainian president still wants the presidential elections to be put off to a later date. In addition to a large group of MP's [members of parliament], his stand is backed by the right-wing centrist parties and movements. Kravchuk plans to hold a closed meeting with them today. It is not difficult to guess that they will work out the tactics and strategy for the session of the new Ukrainian parliament, which is to open on 11 May.

To Appeal for Election Postponement

LD1005162994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 88 (578); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] At the session of the new Ukrainian parliament opening on Wednesday President Leonid Kravchuk is expected to submit a document describing the reasons for the postponement of presidential and local elections scheduled for 26 June.

Earlier the head of state told the press that the powers of the new president should be clearly defined. He spoke for harmonizing the laws on presidency and local government.

"If the president in Kiev is going to have the powers of the head of the Executive Branch of power and territories are going to be governed by parliamentary structures, the president will have no power over the provinces," Kravchuk believes. He accounted his decision to run for presidency to the wish to turn down accusations from the opposition that Kravchuk is afraid of elections. IF Note: The collection of signatures in support of contenders for presidency ended on 6 May. According to preliminary reports, the necessary number of signatures (100,000 in all the 27 electoral districts and at least 1500 in 18) were collected for Kravchuk, the former prime minister Leonid Kuchma, the former speaker of parliament Ivan Plyushch, the Minister of Education Petro Talanchuk and the leader of the Socialist Party Aleksandr Moroz.

Already 120 members of the new parliament have expressed readiness to support Kravchuk in his attempt to postpone presidential elections. Approximately the same number of left-wing MP's is going to vote against the postponement. Experts believe that the approximate balance of forces might block a decision on the matter. In this case the resolution of the old parliament setting the date of the elections for 26 June will remain in force.

Meanwhile, some experts do not rule out the possibility that the subject of presidential elections is not going to be raised at the first sessions of the new parliament at all as it will focus on procedure questions.

On Tuesday the working group for the agenda drafted the procedure of beginning the session. A member of the group Yuriy Sherenin said the parliament should first elect the presidium and secretariat of the session, the accounting and credentials commissions. After that the coverage of the session is going to be discussed as well as a draft resolution on parliamentary groups and factions. After the adoption of this resolution an interval should be announced for several days to form groups and factions and to register them.

Urges Election Postponement, New Constitution

WS1105114694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpts] Today, on the eve of the Ukrainian Supreme Council session, the Ukrainian president held a meeting with people's deputies. Addressing those present, Leonid Kravchuk said:

[Begin Kravchuk recording] [passage omitted] As for the 26 June elections, there is no common point of view on this issue among the people at this point. An opinion is widely held by power structures, local authorities, political circles, and working teams that it is not expedient to hold the elections for president as well as heads and deputy heads of local councils at this time. This position was also endorsed in an address by a group of deputies to the people and the president of Ukraine. Since it was the Supreme Council that made a decision on early presidential elections and the election of local councils, only the Supreme Council can rescind it. As the president and a presidential candidate in the next presidential elections, I consider it necessary to explain my position on the June elections to the deputies and some proposals concerning this issue.

The situation that has take shape as a result of the elections for president and local councils has three aspects—political, economic, and legal. The political aspect. As you know, some time ago, I actively supported the intention to hold early presidential elections, seeing it as a way to assuage political tension in the country. However, at this very time, there is a great risk that the political campaign will not only fail to soothe this tension, but hasten destabilizing processes as well as the polarization of political forces and their confrontation. An intensive campaign to elect the state's leader will only step up the political fight, while today, we need accord and mutual understanding to carry out socioeconomic changes and emerge from the current crisis. Perhaps, it is not by coincidence that many countries, especially in the CIS, conclude agreements on civil peace, accord, and joint efforts to preserve the state. This is of extraordinary importance for Ukraine and presents a chance for saving the state. One should take into consideration the arrangement of political forces in the country and distinctive features of its regions, which would inevitably divide people on the grounds of their attitude toward presidential candidates. It is already clear that those divisions will assume very acute forms and become an obstacle to civil accord. A serious threat to state-building is the vague status of local governments. The June elections are supposed to determine an utterly new option for the Ukrainian state system. Oblast and rayon councils receive the status of state bodies, or to be more precise, a new and imperfect status of local self-government bodies. As a matter of fact, it is an attempt to introduce a federal type of state system because oblast councils are given legislative powers. Their heads are elected directly by the

oblast's population and cannot be replaced without its consent—of course, if the established principles of expressing people's will are respected. [passage omitted]

Supporting broad economic independence of the [Ukrainian] regions, I am not going to use it as an excuse for dividing the unified unitarian state into separate parts. The state's federalization, unmatched by clearly defined constitutional norms, well-considered current legislation, and mechanisms for relations between the center and the hinterland, will make society unmanageable. By the way, experience shows that it will take years, not one month, to create legislation and adopt the Constitution allowing Ukraine to become a federal state. I am convinced that such large-scale transformations can only be done based on a new constitution. In this particular case, I invoke our national experience. Everyone knows that contradictions between Ukraine and the Crimea were caused by the fact that the Constitution does not specify relations between the country as a whole and its autonomous territory. Now, we are faced with the threat of spreading this kind of tension to all Ukrainian oblasts, which may trigger a political crisis. So there are serious grounds to believe that the June elections, in spite all good intentions, can lead to abrupt changes in society and put the state-building process in jeopardy. I am confident that one should at first adopt relevant constitutional principles and lay the legal base, and then launch political reforms. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Republican Movement Leader Elected Crimean Parliament Head

LD1005184594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The leader of the Republican Movement of Crimea, Serhiy Tsekov, was elected chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea at the Crimean parliament session which opened today in Simferopol. He is a staunch supporter of Crimea's statehood and its integration in the CIS. The Commonwealth of Independent States itself, Serhiy Tsekov believes, must be transformed into a federation or a confederation.

Further on New Crimean Parliament Speaker

LD1005191694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] As a longer range priority, Crimea must be an independent legal entity and form a closer union with Russia, leader of the local Republican Party Sergey [Serhiy] Tsekov told parliament on Tuesday. He believes the idea of such a union must be legislated upon.

On Tuesday, the parliament's largest Russia faction holding 55 out of the 98 seats overwhelmingly approved Tsekov's candidacy for the speaker's post.

Tsekov himself prefers a safer option providing for appropriate agreements to be signed with Ukraine and Russia and whatever laws needed to be adopted.

His rival Vladimir Klychnikov has called for a balance of forces in parliament and the society.

On the diplomatic front, priority must be given to Russia given that the emerging situation is good for Crimea's movement towards Moscow, he said. Klychnikov thinks Crimea must take advantage of the current situation when unification trends pervail both in the Russian and Ukrainian parliaments.

The deputies are expected to elect a new speaker later today.

Zvyahilskyy, Officials Comment on 7 May Visit to Crimea

LD1005190194

[Editorial Report] Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian at 1300 GMT on 10 May carries an item on the results of the 7 May visit to Crimea by a Ukrainian delegation headed by acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahilskyy. At UNIAN's request, members of the delegation commented on the trip to meet with Crimea's leaders.

In the view of Roman Shpek, Ukraine's economy minister, "Crimea remains a political issue and one has to know how to be noble. It is not worth trying to convince one another on the telephone of incorrect approaches—it should be done on the basis of an analysis of local enterprises' balance sheets. As far as relations with the regions is concerned, it is necessary to change from confrontation to cooperation."

Roman Shpek added that last year the Supreme Council of Crimea had turned down assistance from the IMF, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation. This year, however Crimeans asked for such help and Kiev is prepared to meet their requests. The minister of the economy continued: "It is worth studying carefully Yuriy Meshkov's economic decrees. Firstly, in order to bring them into line with Ukrainian legislation and secondly, to use the beneficial aspects of the decrees when reforming Ukraine's taxation system."

Hryhoriy Pyatachenko, Ukraine's finance minister, said: "Ukraine's budget relations with Crimea are set in accordance with the 18 February 1994 treaties between the governments of Ukraine and Crimea. The amount of taxation that can be received by the Crimean budget for 1994 is 7.4 trillion karbovantsi. Crimea's share in financing general state programs is 4.3 percent or 6.2 trillion. However, according to an agreement Simferopol does not transfer these funds to Kiev. The Republic of Crimea's expenses reach 4.7 trillion karbovantsi. It has been agreed that Crimea should transfer just 2.7 trillion karbovantsi to Kiev." Hryhoriy Pyatachenko added that in the first quarter Crimea owed 500 billion karbovantsi because of a fall in production and transferred nothing to Ukraine's budget.

Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, said he considered Yuriy Meshkov's decree on "Banks and Banking Activity on the Territory of Crimea" to be the most dramatic contradiction: "I think this law

was copied from the Ukrainian law on banks but with the difference of where it mentions the National Bank of Ukraine, the decree mentions the Republican Bank of Crimea which becomes the property of the Republic of Crimea." He expressed concern at the Crimeans' insistence to obtain the right to issue licenses for the activity of commercial banks. In Yushchenko's opinion talks with representatives of Crimea would continue, but the best option would be if "they repealed the legislative acts that contradict Ukrainian legislation." The National Bank chairman reserved the right to "use protectionist measures to protect the national currency from imported Crimean inflation."

Crimean Group Supports Ukrainian Statehood

LD0905220894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Simferopol, 9 May—An extended assembly of the coordinating council of the Congress of Ukrainians of Crimea has taken place. Representatives of the peninsula's democratic parties, civil organizations, and movements took part. They decided to form a parliamentary type representative body of the nationalist democratic forces of with a state orientation: the Ukrainian Civil Council of Crimea [Ukrayinska hromadyanska rada Krymu]. The newly formed organization aims to guarantee the inviolability of Ukraine's borders, the protection and strengthening of Ukrainian statehood in Crimea, and maintaining political stability peace and inter-ethnic accord on the peninsula.

The participants of the assembly were motivated to form such a body by the deepening crisis of Crimea's bodies of power which, in the opinion of the autonomy's representatives of the national democrats, has recently acquired a dangerous characteristic.

Draft Resolution on Parliament Deputies' Factions

LD1005163194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent learned on 10 May from sources close to Ukraine's Supreme Council that the working group preparing for sittings of the new parliament will submit a draft resolution by the Supreme Council on deputies' groups (factions) for examination at the first plenary sitting of the first session of the Supreme Council of the 13th convocation. In particular the draft envisages that there should be no fewer than 25 deputies in the composition of each faction. At the same time a deputy can only belong to one faction. If factions are formed on party principles, then the name of the party or parties making up the faction should appear in its name, without fail. The Supreme Council chairman and his deputies will not have the right to be in any of the factions. The Supreme Council secretariat will unite those deputies, who do not express a wish to be in the composition of any of the recorded factions, into one mixed deputies' group.

The draft envisages the right of representatives from recorded factions to proportional representation in all of the leading Supreme Council bodies (according to a separate draft resolution, proposed and adopted by a sub-group preparing the parliament regulations, the leaders of factions should be included in the composition of the Supreme Council presidium). It has been determined that every deputies' faction will have a guaranteed right for its representative to speak on all issues of the agenda at all sittings of the Supreme Council and its bodies.

According to the draft, the parliament Speaker will be obliged to provide those deputies' factions, which number no fewer than 50-70 deputies (the first session is to determine the final figures), with premises, the required equipment, and also assistance from administrative and technical staff. All materials from officially registered factions will be disseminated to members of parliament through the secretariat.

In the opinion of one of the Supreme Council officials involved in preparing the draft, who wished to remain anonymous, the new regulation on deputies' groups and factions, if adopted by the first session, will grant considerably more rights to deputies' associations and give factions the opportunity to influence parliament's most fundamental decisions, even without serious amendments to the number of parliamentarians in one or other faction.

The UNIAN correspondent also learned of the lists of proposals by working groups regarding the formation of the credentials and counting commissions at the first session of the Supreme Council of the 13th convocation. Twenty-five names of newly elected deputies have been submitted to the list of persons proposed for the composition of the credentials commission, and 23 names for the composition of the counting commission. In accordance with the proposals of the working groups, these commissions are to be elected at the first plenary sitting, after Ivan Yemets, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, has spoken, and after information on the work of the preparatory groups has been given.

Acting Prime Minister Denies Economic Crisis

AU1105113594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Yu. Zvyahilskyy: 'It Is By Force of Habit That We Speak About the Crisis'"]

[Text] Whereas inflation reached 91 percent in December 1993, it was 19.2 percent in January 1994; 12.6 percent in February; and 5.7 percent in March. This enabled us to adopt a decision on reducing the annual rate of the National Bank to 210 percent. At the same time, it is possible to regard the catastrophic decline in the volume of production from a different point of view: The decrease in the production of electric energy, for example, amounts to just 18 percent, while the production of some foodstuffs and the output of individual branches of the national economy, including metallurgy, is even increasing. These and other facts were quoted to correspondents by acting Prime Minister Yu. Zvyahilskyy during a meeting in the UNIAN office.

According to Zvyahilskyy, the government currently controls the situation on the currency and credits and finance markets and has come out decisively against the resumption of auctions at the Interbank Currency Exchange, which would ensure a free exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets relative to the U.S. dollar. In his opinion, this is risky as long as the energy sources account for 68.9 percent in the country's import and there exists a real threat that the prices on the consumer market may get out of control. For the same reason, "it is necessary to be more cautious in accepting recommendations and demands of international financial organizations."

Asked by a correspondent "if everything is so good, then why are we talking about a crisis?" Yu. Zvyahilskyy shrugged his shoulders: "Force of habit."

Cabinet Decrees Measures To Overcome Payments Crisis

AU1005145094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 May 94 p 2

["Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Decree No. 286 on Urgent Measures for Overcoming the Payments Crisis and Normalizing the Operation of Enterprises" issued in Kiev on 4 May]

[Text] In view of the difficult socioeconomic situation and in order to fulfill urgent measures for overcoming hyperinflation in Ukraine, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decrees as follows:

1. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy, jointly with the Ministry of Justice and other interested ministries and departments, must prepare and submit to Ukraine's government, within a month, the following Ukraine's Supreme Council draft decrees:

On introducing, from 1 January 1995, the tax on profit instead of the tax on the income of enterprises and organizations and on introducing the tax on the property of enterprises;

On reducing, from 1 July 1994, the value-added tax to 20 percent of the taxable turnover and on the possibility of reducing, from 1 January 1995, the rate of this tax levied upon the main foodstuffs and goods for children manufactured in Ukraine;

On establishing, from 1 July 1994, the rates of excise on alcoholic drinks at 80 percent, table wines at 10 percent, tobacco products with filter at 40 percent, without filter at 25 percent, and color television sets at 10 percent and on canceling excise tax on black-and-white television sets and alcohol exported in conformity with Ukraine's international agreements;

On introducing state monopoly on the production, storage, and wholesale and retail trade in liqueur, vodka, and tobacco products (jointly with the State Committee for Food Industry).

2. In order to stimulate export of products for foreign currency, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of External Economic Ties, the State Customs Committee, the Ministry of Finance, and the Main State Tax Inspection must elaborate, within two weeks, and submit to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers the draft decree of Ukraine's Supreme Council "On the Procedure for Accomplishing Barter (Commodity- Exchange) Operations in the External Economic Activity."

3. To take into account the fact that draft edicts on the improvement of currency regulation and on the liberalization of external economic activity have been submitted to the Ukrainian president for consideration and that Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decree "On Changes in the Rates of Import Customs Duty on Individual Types of Goods" has been adopted. The latter decree is meant for creating conditions for the protection of home commodity producers, with regard to those goods that are manufactured in sufficient quantities in the country.

4. The Ministry of Economy, jointly with the Ministry of Finance and branch ministries and departments, must specify and determine the size of the necessary financial and credits support for those manufacturing enterprises whose products are in demand on both the internal and external markets and also those enterprises and organizations the results of whose activity influence the development of the country's economy.

The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy, jointly with the National Bank, must determine sources for the financial and credits support for individual enterprises and conditions for granting and using such support starting from 1 June 1994.

5. To recommend that the National Bank consider the question of reducing the bank rate taking into account the actual inflation rate.

Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yu. Zvyahilskyy

Minister of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers I. Dotsenko

Delegation To Discuss Space, Other Issues During U.S. Visit

LD1005144994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1401 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 10 May—A government delegation of Ukraine headed by deputy premier Valeriy Shmarov has left for Washington. The delegation will hold talks with the State Department, the National Security Council, and the U.S. Departments of Defense and of Energy. The aim of the talks is to elaborate the principles of cooperation with Ukraine and the United States in the area of the peaceful development of space, discuss the process of implementation of the trilateral statement and bilateral agreements on issues of conversion and nuclear disarmament, and the state of implementation of other Ukrainian-U.S. agreements.

Oil Spill From Refinery Spreads to Dniester River

AU1105102794 Ivano-Frankivsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[UKRINFORM report: "An Oil Spill Has Reached the Dniester River"]

[Text] As reported by the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection, according to the data of the Ivano-Frankivsk State Administration of the Environmental Ministry, an oil spill from a cistern of the Drohobych refinery occurred on 25 April. Its size is being estimated.

The oil found its way into the Tysmenytsya River and has now reached the Dniester. The plant's civil defense formation was put into action to clean the contaminated areas. The main oil flow was stopped owing to measures taken on the Tysmenytsya River.

Individual large slicks were observed in the Dniester River at 1400-1500 on 26 April on the outskirts of the Kolodruba village.

During the night and on the morning of 27 April, oil slicks were expected in the area between Rozdol and Zhuravno. Barriers are being set up. Chemical methods will be used for binding the oil.

'Evacuation' of Nuclear Munitions to Russia Continue

PM1005122794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1935 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Report over video of operations at missile silos; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[Text] The planned evacuation of nuclear munitions [yadernyye boyepripasy] from Ukrainian territory to Russia is continuing. To date, 180 units of nuclear munitions have been taken out of the country. They will be destroyed at Russian plants in accordance with the trilateral agreement signed by Russia, Ukraine, and the United States.

City Chairman Wants Black Sea Fleet Stationed in Sevastopol

WS1105083694 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 94 p 2

[Interview with Sevastopol City Council Chairman Viktor Mikhaylovich Semenov by G. Staroverov; place and date not given: "Sevastopol and the Fleet Are Indivisible"]

[Text] [Staroverov] Viktor Mikhaylovich, how do you assess the current situation in Sevastopol?

[Semenov] The situation in the city remains very tense. First of all, this is explained by the still undetermined status of the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol. A recent meeting between Russian and Ukrainian military delegations in our city devoted to the Black Sea Fleet issue did not produce any positive results. On the contrary, they were a step backward. The reason is that the Ukrainian side, in my mind, adopted a destructive position and, in fact, avoided the Moscow agreement on resolving the Black Sea Fleet issue step-by-step. Nevertheless, the signature of Ukrainian President Leonid M. Kravchuk is on this pact.

Participants in the recent session of the Sevastopol City Executive Council have assessed the situation in the city. They have decisively denounced the discord in relations between the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Black Sea Fleet. In our opinion, this situation was triggered by the indecisiveness and inconsistency of the moves by top leaders in Ukraine and Russia to resolve the Black Sea Fleet issue, and their ignoring of proposals from the Sevastopol City Council, the Crimean Supreme Soviet, and the Crimean president.

[Statoverov] Viktor Mikhaylovich, you and Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov did not participate in this meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

[Semenov] To my regret, you are correct. Two seats at the negotiating table were reserved for us. However, Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy categorically opposed our participation in the talks. He explained his position by discussing purely military-technical issues. Of course, this was a lame excuse.

[Statoverov] What was the real reason then?

[Semenov] The negotiations reached a deadlock not on the issue of dividing ships but on the location of the base for the Russian Black Sea Fleet and Ukrainian Navy. This directly addresses the core interests of all residents of Sevastopol and Crimea. The position of the Sevastopol City Council and me, as its chairman, is exact and explicit. We support the Russian and Ukrainian presidents' decision on the impossibility of the further joint stationing of two fleets at the same base and issuing a proposal to the Ukrainian Navy to move its headquarters and other facilities to places other than Sevastopol. Our position is clear: Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet are indivisible. For more than two centuries, they shared their history, traditions, and goals.

[Statoverov] There is no more important issue for us, as Sevastopol residents, than the clarification of the status of our native city. On 26 June, when Ukrainian local administration elections are held, we will conduct a poll of our residents. The question will be as follows: Do you support the status of Sevastopol as the primary Black Sea base for Russia, as proceeding from the Russian-Ukrainian Protocol of 3 September 1993? The text of the Massandra pact will be printed on the back of the ballot paper.

[Semenov] The location of the Russian Black Sea Fleet means the resolution of socioeconomic issues for residents of Sevastopol and Crimea...

[Statoverov] Of course. Currently, we are witnessing a sharp drop in production. Many enterprises have no means even to pay wages to their workers. Hidden unemployment is growing. Currently, one in every three

employed people is on unpaid leave or is working part-time. Regular lack of energy resources also adds to the overall social tension. Or, for example, the city budget. The total sum of our expenditures adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Council stands only at 873 billion karbovanetses. We need an additional five or six such budgets to live at 1993 levels. Currently, our city cannot live at its own expense.

At the same time, new prospects would open for us if the Russian Black Sea Fleet base was located in Sevastopol. This will provide us with guaranteed wages, resolve the issues of unemployment, housing construction, health care, and culture. Finally, this will have an impact on the development of the spiritual culture of society, bringing up the young generation on the heroic traditions of the Russian Fleet. This gives us the opportunity to establish direct economic relations between Sevastopol—the chief Russian Black Sea Fleet base—and Russian cities and regions. By the way, we have already established contacts with the Southern Rayon in Moscow and Krasnogvardeyskiy Rayon in St. Petersburg.

[Semenov] Viktor Mikhaylovich, the second round of talks on the Black Sea Fleet have been scheduled. What would you wish its participants?

[Statoverov] I would like that the Black Sea Fleet issue be resolved as soon as possible. I would emphasize one more idea: The definition of the status of Sevastopol is a prerogative of the Russian and Ukrainian leaders, however, I cannot agree that this issue can be resolved without the participation of the Crimean Supreme Soviet and president, as well as the Sevastopol City Council. The residents of Sevastopol hold out hope that common sense will prevail over political ambitions, and the negotiations will be held in the immediate future. I would like to finish our interview with words from the appeal issued by the Sevastopol City Council to the fraternal peoples of Russia and Ukraine: "The Black Sea Fleet should belong to Russia!" "The Black Sea Fleet Base should be located in Sevastopol!"

Belarus

Much 'Uncertainty' Over Economic Union With Russia

PM1005113594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Report by Yaroslav Shimov: "Belorussian Economy's Fate Will Not Be Decided Before Presidential Elections"]

[Text] Minsk-Moscow—The treaty on Russian-Belorussian [Belarusian] monetary union officially came into force 1 May—insofar as the creation of a single customs area on the territory of the two states is concerned. There is still a great deal of uncertainty over the other aspects of Russian-Belorussian economic union.

According to a sociological poll conducted by Belorussia's [Belarus's] "Public Opinion" service, 66 percent of the country's inhabitants back monetary union, while 34 percent are against or cannot make up their minds. The idea of economic union with the powerful—compared with Belorussia itself—eastern neighbor is popular with a people who still have a poor idea however of what kind of union this is and what it is like. The main point is when, where, and at what rate of exchange Belorussians will be able to obtain the more stable Russian rubles instead of the rapidly devaluing "hares" (the level of inflation in March was around 40 percent).

Even Belorussia's top leaders cannot provide a clear answer to that question now. Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb did not give IZVESTIYA a specific date for money exchange. So Belorussians were fretting for nothing as they tried to get rid of "hares" during the first few days following the signing of the treaty with Russia. (The current rate of the Russian ruble against the local bills of exchange is 1:8.) There is every indication that the farewell to the "hare" will not take place very soon: There are too many questions over monetary union and they still have to be settled.

At an extraordinary Supreme Soviet session Belorussian deputies made the legislative adjustments necessary to ensure that the agreement with Russia works. But the question of the National Bank of Belorussia which, as a result of this agreement, is reduced to the level of a regional branch of the Russian bank, has not been resolved: One of the articles of the recently adopted Belorussian Constitution needs to be altered for that. People in Minsk are not desperately keen on doing that. Mechyslaw Hryb said that during a conversation with him the Russian president also remarked that "it is better to work on the text of the treaty than change the Constitution."

The Supreme Soviet chairman believes that the first stage in the implementation of the Russian-Belorussian agreement will make it possible to judge whether the treaty is at all workable. Although for Mr. Hryb himself the need for economic union with Russia remains axiomatic. "Our economic orientation is eastward," the Belorussian speaker said. "The form that this orientation may take is another matter...."

Meanwhile not only one-third of Belorussians polled by sociologists, but also the opposition are prey to gnawing doubts about the need for an economic treaty with Russia. People's Deputy Vladimir Novik, for instance, believes that "Belorussia will end up in complete financial isolation as a result of monetary union and bound tight to Russia. Russian Government strategists, rich financial corporations, and industrial groups can then set about sharing out Belorussia's national wealth."

Mechyslaw Hryb does not however see any particular problem in the possibility of Russian capital's active penetration of the Belorussian market since this will, in his opinion, "at any rate be working for us by producing goods and giving our people work." The latter is a particularly pressing issue for the Republic since many of Belorussia's enterprises are on the verge of closure.

Union with Russia, however much it means for Belorussia's one-sided economy, can hardly be a panacea for all ills. Their own economic reforms are also needed. Whether they will finally be implemented and in what direction will not be decided before 23 June, the day of the presidential elections. The future of the Belorussian economy once again rests on the outcome of political battles.

Just six weeks remain until the election of Belorussia's first president, but two possibilities for the future of the Belorussian economy are now clear. If a moderate democrat or representative of the local "power party" wins, Belorussia can expect increasingly close rapprochement with Russia and gradual reforms somewhat reminiscent of the course pursued by V. Chernomyrdin's Russian Government. If a nationalist or Communist candidate is successful that may spell the beginning of senseless experiments, which may bring about the downfall of this country's economy.

Kazakhstan

'Unpublicized State of Emergency' in Almaty

PM1105090794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 May 94 p 1

[Report from column prepared by Olga Saprynina, V. Vishnevskiy, A. Maksyuk, V. Aloyan, V. Lebedev, and D. Babich: "Tanks on the Move in Alma-Ata?"]

[Text] In addition to the bemedaled veterans, armed military details were to be placed at all Alma-Ata's [Almaty's] intersections on Victory Day. An unpublicized state of emergency has been introduced in the Kazakhstani capital. Rumor has it that this was due to an attack on Bulat Abilov, president of the Kazakhstani firm Butya. According to other information, the reason was the escape of two convicts. The MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] attributes it to the complex crime situation in Kazakhstan.

A city crime-fighting staff has been formed in Alma-Ata. It will operate until the capital of Kazakhstan becomes a safe city. All hotels, hostels, and suspect apartments are being checked over. In the last two days alone 11 kg of opium worth around $55,000 have been confiscated. All urban transport routes have begun to be "processed" as of yesterday.

Almaty, Washington Disagree on Missile Dismantlement

LD1005111494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Kazakh and American Government delegations failed to reach mutually acceptable agreements on ways to dismantle missile-launching installations in Kazakhstan, First Deputy Defence Minister Alikbek Kasymov told INTERFAX on Tuesday.

According to him, a major issue at their talks concluded in Almaty on Saturday was the fixing of terms on a tender for the work of dismantling the silos, and the participation of Kazakh firms in the tender. However, a mutually acceptable solution failed to be reached.

Kazakhstan believes that though the tender submitted by the U.S. Government is "open, because of its stringent conditions the participation of Kazakh firms in it is problematic," Kasymov said.

Those who intend to take part in the tender are the joint-stock company Katep (Kazakh nuclear energy industry), and two holding companies—Special Installations and Construction. The talks are to be continued, Kasymov said.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Meets French Envoy, Discusses Paris Visit

LD1005114594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev discussed in Bishkek Tuesday the program of his visit to Paris with the French Ambassador Pierre Morel. During the visit planned for 1-3 June, Akayev is expected to meet French President Francois Mitterrand, as well as to sign agreements.

Prepared for signing are agreements on trade and economic cooperation as well as on cooperation in the sphere of science, culture and education. It is expected that Kyrgyzstan will sign the Paris Human Rights Charter adopted in 1990.

During the talk Akayev said that he attaches great importance to his visit to France since it will be his first visit to Europe. The president also said he was interested in the intensification of cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit it was stressed that Kyrgyzstan was interested in attracting French private capital to the Republic.

Azerbaijan Denies Responsibility for Bishkek Talks Failure

LD1005160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 88 (578)—Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] In an interview with Interfax a member of the Azeri delegation to the Bishkek meeting for a settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict has denied charges that his delegation was responsible for the failure of the talks. He said the chance that Azerbaijan would sign the documents of the meeting in full was actually blocked because they were signed by Nagorno Karabakh as the third side to the conflict.

Baku believes that the status of the third side should be given to both the Armenian and Azeri communities of Nagorno-Karabakh. They should attend the negotiations without the right to vote or sign the final documents as official sides to the conflict. They can sign documents only as interested sides, the Azeri spokesman said.

Meanwhile, an envoy of the Russian president, ambassador at large Vladimir Kazimirov has told INTERFAX that in Baku the chairman of the Azeri parliament Rasul Gulyev signed with two reservations the Bishkek protocol urging the conflicting sides in Nagorno-Karabakh to stop hostilities as of 0000 on 9 May.

In addition to a cease-fire the document signed in Bishkek by the heads of parliaments of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh as well as mediators from the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko and Medetkan Sherimkulov (the speaker of the Kyrgyz parliament) urges the conflicting sides to work out a mechanism of implementing the cease-fire, including the withdrawal of troops from occupied territories and sending a CIS peace-keeping force to the conflict zone.

According to Kazimirov, one reservation made by the head of the Azeri parliament concerns occupied territories.

He insisted on changing the formula to captured territories. He changed the part of the Bishkek document speaking of the need to send CIS observers or a CIS force to international observers or an international force.

Kazimirov said that the changes were made by the Azeri side and they should be viewed as Azerbaijan's a special opinion because for all other signatories to the Bishkek document the text remains the way it was signed. [sentence as published]

The envoy added that under the Russian peace plan the first stage of six days is given for ensuring the cease-fire, the second of 34 days for the liberation of captured Azeri territories (six regions lying outside Nagorno-Karabakh), the exchange of POW's and hostages, the restoration of power lines and communications, the return of refugees to their homes. The third stage will begin with negotiations on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. Kazimirov stressed that the future of Shusha and Lachin regions of Azerbaijan should also be clarified.

According to the Russian diplomat, Russia proceeds from the assumption that the conflict involves three sides: Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. He felt that this is a realistic approach and the only one that can speed up the solution of the problem.

IF Note: According to the press service of the defence army of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Karabakh armed forces in keeping with orders from the command have strictly observed the unilateral cease-fire since 0000 9 May. Meanwhile, the Azeri Defence Ministry reports that despite the declarations about a unilateral cease-fire at 0300 on 9 May Armenian forces attacked Azeri Army positions in the south of Fizuli region, Azerbaijan.

Lease Deal Signed With Boeing for 2 Aircraft

LD1105091894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The airline company KyrgyzAba Zholdary and the U.S. aerospace corporation Boeing have signed an agreement in Bishkek on leasing two Boeing-737-200 aircraft. Each aircraft accomodates 120-130 passengers and uses half as much fuel as the Ty-154. Its crew consists of only two pilots. The American side agreed to a four-year-long lease. The first year our airline company will not pay rent—it will earn some money first and only then will it pay for the lease.

It took half a year to negotiate the deal and talks were held both in Seattle and in Bishkek. Our experts familiarized themselves with the manufacturing process and the system of servicing and utilizing. The American side will train our crews as a part of the lease payment and also provide us with technical experts. Around 20 pilots will soon go to Seattle to be trained there. At the end of this year, two Boeing aircraft will land at Manas airport. They will fly to Moscow, Tashkent, Istanbul, Novosibirsk, and other cities. The Boeing aircraft can cover the distance of 4,000-5,000 km.

Turkmenistan

Shikhmuradov Signs NATO Partnership for Peace Program

LD1005124294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] today became the first Central Asian country to join the NATO Partnership for Peace program. Turkmen Prime Minister Boris Shikhmuradov [title as heard] signed the document in Brussels.

Comments on Partnership With NATO

LD1005201094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 10 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Excerpt] Brussels, 10 May—"Turkmenistan is not seeking NATO's help, but is striving to develop partnership with the alliance on a mutually advantageous basis," Boris Shikhmuradov, deputy prime minister of this Central Asian republic, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. At NATO headquarters in Brussels today, he signed the outline document of the "Partnership for Peace" program. So, 18 countries have joined the program, including eight former Soviet republics.

Turkmenistan, the deputy prime minister said, has possibilities of broad cooperation with NATO member-countries in all spheres, including the military one. He said talks were underway on joint programs for training officers of the Turkmen Armed Forces and on cooperation in other areas of military construction.

At the signing ceremony, B. Shikhmuradov said Turkmenistan sees the main purpose of its participation in the program set out by NATO member-countries in objectively promoting a solution to the principal task which is strengthening Turkmenistan's sovereignty and turning it into a fully independent member of the international community.

Along with developing partnership relations with new democratic Russia, the deputy prime minister noted, his republic is developing cooperation with West European countries and the USA, Asian states, and CIS neighbors. He specifically noted Turkmenistan's potential role as a bridge between Europe and south and southeast Asia. [passage omitted]

Uzbekistan

Karimov Meets Japanese Journalists Prior to Trip

LD1105104494 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Uzbek President Islam Karimov received Japanese newspaper correspondents at their request. Islam Karimov expressed satisfaction with the fact that talks with journalists from a flourishing and a leading country are being held on the eve of his official

visit to Japan. He spoke to the guests on Uzbekistan's own path to a market economy and the progress of the reforms in the Republic. He also talked about the development of relations between Uzbekistan and CIS countries and the international ties of our republic, including the prospects for the development of economic ties with Japan. The Japanese expressed gratitude for the warm reception and the interesting conversation and wished Islam Karimov a fruitful and good trip to Japan. [passage omitted]

Report on Consumer Goods Production in Tashkent

LD0905104394 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 9 May 94

[Summary] About 2,500 small and joint enterprises have been registered in Tashkent's Mirabadskiy rayon over the past two years. More than half of these enterprises specialize in the production of consumer goods, and since the begining of this year they have produced goods valued at 500 million sum-coupons. More than 20,000 people are engaged in this sphere of entrepreneurship.

Tashkent Celebrates Day of Europe

LD0905102194 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpts] People throughout the world are celebrating the day of victory in World War II today. [passage omitted] In our Republic, this day is also celebrated as the Day of Europe. For the first time a week of European culture is being held in Tashkent, organized by a European Economic Union mission and the coordination bureau of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During this week concerts, plays, and music festivals will be held in the Ali Sheri Navoi Theater. Arts, crafts, and porcelain exhibitions and a week of European films will also be held. Today, the Day of Europe, will be celebrated with a concert by the Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan in the Bahor Hall. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Minister Denies Armenia, Russia Active in Karabakh

LD1105102694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan May 11 TASS—"If the people of Nagorno-Karabakh is threatened with physical extermination, the Armed Forces of Armenia and the entire Armenian nation will not sit on their hands and watch dispassionately how their brothers and sisters are being killed," Armenian Defence Minister Serzh Sargsyan said in an interview with the newspaper AZG published in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

The minister said that Karabakh needs no large-scale military assistance at present, because the armed forces of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic can effectively rebuff all attacks of the Azeri Army.

The situation at the front in Nagorno-Karabakh has sharply improved in favour of the Karabakh Army and the initiative is in the latter's hands. The Azeri Army has suffered considerable losses in manpower and military equipment, the minister said. According to his estimates, Azerbaijan has lost about 12 thousand soldiers and officers since December 18, and 650-700 officers and soldiers, two combat aircraft, twelve T-72 tanks, six armoured vehicles, four artillery guns, two tractors and several truckfuls of ammunition since the beginning of the April offensive. During the same period, Karabakh lost 70 men, three tanks and two armoured vehicles.

The Armenian minister said Azerbaijan's leaders are trying to hide the amount of their Army's recent losses in the Mardakert and Agdam districts and are exaggerating the losses sustained by Karabakh.

The Armenian minister rejected allegations that the Armenian Armed Forces are involved in battles in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said the Karabakh Armenians make up the bulk of the fighters in Nagorno-Karabakh and a few tens of volunteers of Karabakh extraction from Armenia cannot change the overall picture. "We cannot forbid small groups of volunteers from Armenia to go to Karabakh in order to protect their relatives and friends, no more than we can regard them as armed forces," he said.

Sargsyan said Azerbaijan's authorities are seeking to involve Yerevan in the war in order to portray the Karabakh conflict as a result of territorial claims of one country to another, instead of the Nagorno-Karabakh's people national liberation struggle for self-determination. Azerbaijan's leaders "are ashamed to admit that the small Karabakh formations have been routing for a number of years larger Azeri forces armed with modern weapons and reinforced with Afghan Mojahedins, Turkish instructors and Ukrainian and Pakistani mercenaries," the minister said.

The Armenian leader rejected allegations that special units of the Russian Army are taking part in battles on the side of Nagorno-Karabakh to capture Azeri positions and hand them over to the Karabakh military. "Frankly speaking it would be good if the Russian Army were really involved there. But unfortunately, the Azeri allegations have nothing in common with reality," Sargsyan said.

Trade Minister Arrested on Bribery Charges

LD1005144794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 10 May—Armenian Trade Minister Tigran Grigoryan was arrested in Armenia today. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from sources close to the republic's Interior Ministry. It is reported that the minister was detained while receiving a bribe.

Tigran Grigoryan is 46 years old. He worked for many years as a commodity researcher in Yerevan's fruit and vegetable trading system, becoming chief of this department in 1986. In 1992, he became first deputy minister, and has been the republic's minister of trade since May 1992.

Azerbaijan

Armenian Forces Reportedly Launch Large-Scale Attack

NC1005171794 Baku AZERTAC in English 1644 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Baku, May 10 (AZERTAC)—According to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, today Armenian troops launched a large-scale offensive in Agdam. Despite the statement of unilateral cease-fire, the Armenians continue their offensive in the Geranboyskiy, Terterskiy and Fizulinskiy Districts beyond Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azeri Army's positions in Mourovdag [as received] range, in the north of the district of Kelbadzharskiy, and border villages in Kedabek are subject to the enemy's shelling.

Nagorno-Karabakh Reports Azerbaijani Attack Repulsed

LD1105122194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] On May 11 at about 5:00 in the morning, after artillery preparations the Azerbaijani troops backed by armored vehicles started an attack in the Mardakert Region of Nagorno-Karabakh towards the populated center of Seisulan.

The Nagorno-Karabakh defense army's press service said the attack had been resisted and the Azerbaijani troops had retreated to their earlier positions.

The Karabakh defense positions on the eastern section of the front were subjected to artillery fire. Hostilities continue in the region.

However, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported on continuing military actions in the northern and northeastern zone of the Karabakh conflict (the Azerbaijani regions of Agdam and Geranboi). Baku said the Armenian formations kept trying to break through the Azerbaijani positions.

Azerbaijan Troops 'Intensely' Shell Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1005171194 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1300 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It was hoped after Azerbaijan's disclosure that it agrees to the protocol that was signed in Bishkek by the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan that a cease-fire will be observed on the front line and suitable conditions will be created for the implementation of the measures that have been planned to end the dispute. We wish to recall that the NKR leaders ordered their defense units to cease firing on [words indistinct]. The Armenian side has remained committed to that order and has refrained from retaliating against the fire directed on the Armenian defense positions in various parts of the front line.

However, it is common knowledge that Azerbaijan is not interested in observing a cease-fire and suspending its military operations. A significant difference exists between that Republic's words and deeds. That viewpoint is confirmed by the following:

Azerbaijan's troops intensely shelled NKR positions with artillery units at 0600 today. Later, they attacked (Vashkeravan) in the eastern sector of the front line. The NKR Defense Army Press Service has reported that Azerbaijan's military forces, supported by armored vehicles, also attacked Yarymdzha in the northeastern sector of the front line at 1015. A preparatory wave of artillery shelling preceded their onslaught. According to the information we received at about 1100, the NKR defense units were successfully obstructing the enemy's attacks.

Tension continues to exist in other parts of the front line. However, the Armenian units, in an effort to avoid worsening the situation and undermining the cease-fire agreement, have tried not to return the fire of the enemy forces as much as possible.

According to the information we have received, an incident did not occur on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan until this afternoon. However, the situation in the region is tense.

Will the agreement reached within NATO's framework for peace also have a bearing on the NKR front line? Who knows?

Kazimirov Reveals Russian Plan To Complement Protocol

NC1005123494 Baku TURAN in English 0913 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Baku, May 9 (TURAN)—Milli Mejlis' speaker, Rasul Guliyev, on behalf of Azerbaijan signed the Bishkek Protocol according to Vladimir Kazimirov, the special representative to the Russia president on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Vladimir Kazimirov arrive to Baku and held talks with Azerbaijan's leadership. He noted that the Protocol calls for an appeal for a ceasefire. [words indistinct] responsibility to observe the ceasefire. However, from the information of May 9 it became known the ceasefire was violated by both sides. He also said that "the Bishkek Protocol must be signed alongside another document that is signed by the leaderships of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno- Karabakh and Russia". He stated, "The Bishkek Protocol should be treated as an invitation to the fighting parties to begin implementation of Russia's settlement plan". The plan consists of three stages. The first stage involves a ceasefire and to take measures to ensure that it is not broken. A six-day term has been given to implement this stage. The second stage must include the freeing of the captured territories of the six regions outside of Nagorno-Karabakh within thirty-four days, the exchange of prisoners of war, hostages, corpses and free exchange of information about the abovementioned categories of persons, the resumption of transportation lines and energy lines, the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes. The third stage is to begin the negotiation process including the issue concerning the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to Kazimirov, the status of Shusha and Lachin will be resolved during the final stage along with the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh. "Shusha is like Jerusalem. Azerbaijanis say it is theirs, and Armenians say it is theirs. This is not a simple question and this question must be negotiated...it is more useful for Azerbaijan to accept the Russian proposal in order to free 6 regions according to this plan: Agdamskiy, Fizulinskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, Zangelanskiy, Kubatlinskiy, and Kelbadzharskiy. Only after this, can the fate of Shusha and Lachin be discussed", said Kazimirov.

He noted that "There are three parties to the conflict: Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia...this is Russia's position and it reflects the existing realities and on realistic steps can settle this problem more effectively."

Baku Joins Cease-Fire Protocol Despite Opposition

MK1105080094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 May 94 p 1

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report under the "Conflict" rubric: "Shusha as Jerusalem. Azerbaijan Signs Russian Peace Plan With Reservations"]

[Text] Azerbaijan has joined the protocol on a cease-fire in the area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which was

earlier signed by the Armenian parliament chief, representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh, and also mediators from the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

While affixing his signature to the Bishkek document, Azerbaijani Parliament Chairman Rasul Guliyev voiced two reservations. The Azerbaijani side requested that the term "occupied territories" be replaced with "seized territories." The Azerbaijani side also changed the passage setting forth the need to bring in CIS observers into "international observers or international forces." Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov, Russian special envoy, said in a press conference in Baku that these amendments should not be seen as changes to the text itself, because "for all those who signed the document in Bishkek the text will remain just as they signed it." When asked why the cities of Lachin and Shusha were not included in the list of regions to be freed from a troop presence, he said: "The situation of Shusha is somewhat reminiscent of Jerusalem's. The Azerbaijani side says that this is its city, but the Armenian side does not agree." So far, the Russian plan calls for the cities of Agdam, Dzhebrail, Fizuli, Zangelan, and a number of others to be freed. Kazimirov denied a statement that Russia is trying to realize its imperial ambitions. He said that Russia's objective is to put an end to the drawn-out conflict. The Russian envoy recalled that the Moscow-proposed plan includes three stages: a cease-fire and the cessation of hostilities within six days; the release of all seized territories (except for Shusha and Lachin), a speedy exchange of hostages and prisoners of war, and the restoration of communications within 34 days. The third stage involves negotiations on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Meanwhile, the decision by the Azerbaijani parliament leadership to sign the Bishkek protocol has drawn a negative reaction from many opposition forces. On 10 May, a joint statement was passed by 12 of the republic's political parties. "Azerbaijani political forces do not recognize the protocol signed in Bishkek, because it runs counter to the interests of the Azerbaijani nation and effectively legally formalizes the separation of the cities of Shusha and Lachin from Azerbaijan," the appeal says. The document stresses that disengagement forces may only be brought into the region under the aegis of the United Nations and the CSCE. Representatives of 12 political parties called on People's Assembly deputies to voice a protest against the Russian Federation peace plan and to annul Rasul Guliyev's signature under the protocol.

In Baku, the possibility of implementing the Bishkek protocol is assessed pessimistically, because after Rasul Guliyev signed the protocol, David Shakhnazaryan, the Armenian president's special envoy, said that the Karabakh forces were not going to leave the occupied Azerbaijani territories in any event unless peacekeeping troops are brought into the region. Azerbaijan, however, opposes this approach, believing that if any disengagement forces are to be brought in, this move must be preceded by a complete withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories.

Kazimirov Explains Signing of Bishkek Protocol

NC1005115994 Baku TURAN in English 0913 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Baku (May 9) TURAN—Yesterday following talks between special representative of Russian President, Vladimir Kazimirov, and Azeri representatives, the Chairman of Azeri Supreme Soviet, Rasul Guliyev, signed the Bishkek protocol concerning political settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, reports a TURAN's correspondent.

Kazimirov said that "Rasul Guliyev signed the Bishkek document with two reservations". Instead of "captured territories", Guliyev wrote "occupied territories" and to the word "monitors", he added the word "international".

"These reservations practically change nothing but the Azeri party thinks that it is very important", mentioned Kazimirov.

In his answer to the whether these amendments to the Bishkek document forwarded by the Azeri party will be adopted, Kazimirov said that "this document was signed in Bishkek by the representatives of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, the Chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS, secretary general of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS the chairman of the Kyrgyzstan Parliament and myself as representative of the Russian president. For all those who signed it in Bishkek, the text will remain the same. Probably, the Azeri party expressed it particular opinion of this text".

According to Kazimirov, "the document was signed by the representatives of the legislative bodies which have created important political ground for the beginning of the settlement to the conflict".

"All concrete issues coming out of the protocol must be settled by executive powers, or presidents, premiers and defense ministers", said Kazimirov.

Kazimirov said that during his meeting with President Aliyev on Sunday "they agreed to order a cease in hostilities". "On the other hand, I know that Stepanakert has been already ordered to cease hostilities since I spoke with Stepankert by phone just now", said Kazimirov. But according to Kazimirov "there is no official agreement on a cease-fire between the parties, each party orders a cease in hostilities itself", mentioned special envoy of the Russian president.

"The matter concerning concluding the agreement on a cease-fire has yet to be discussed", said Kazimirov.

"The fact is that Baku and Stepanakert must conclude an agreement over the cease-fire themselves", mentioned Kazimirov. "Baku sees the conflict as one between Armenia and Azerbaijan while Yerevan believes that this is a conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia is not involved in it. Such propagandistic sentiments by Yerevan do not allow the parties to move towards political settlement of the conflict.

Kazimirov said that the Russian party believes that "one of the obstacles in the way of settlement of the conflict is Azerbaijan's non-recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh, the party to the conflict". He added that "it is up to Azerbaijan to recognize it or not". "But recognition of the party to the conflict is necessary in order to know with whom to sign the agreement for a cease-fire".

Prior to the Bishkek summit, the Azeri Parliament made the decision to not sign the Bishkek Protocol because its provisions contradict the interests of Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Russia Ready To Deploy Troops in Abkhazia

LD1005195094 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] In the opinion of Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, conditions for deploying UN forces in Abkhazia are not available, but the Security Council could discuss the issue of putting Russian peace-keeping forces there to secure the return of refugees and carry out sowing work. Regulating the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict is possible only by means of resolving three issues which are closely linked with each other: a political settlement, the return of refugees, and creating forces for securing peace.

The UN secretary general stressed success in the political sphere will only be possible if refugees start to return to their homes, which, in itself, is connected with carrying out peace-keeping operations.

The sowing season is about to start and if it is missed, by the end of the year, the situation will be even harder. However, noted Butrus-Ghali, it has become clear that a wide-scale return of refugees and the forcibly displaced cannot take place until the international military presence in Abkhazia's rayons, where refugees and the displaced will be returning, is secured. Without this international presence, they are not ready to trust in the readiness and the ability of the Abkhaz authorities to secure their safety. That is why, stated Butrus-Ghali, the issue of deployment of international forces is a very urgent one.

"The Russian Federation has reported its readiness to deploy an advanced contingent of the United Nations, if the Security Council adopts the decision on creating it. I am proceeding from the fact that this contingent of several hundreds of military servicemen could be put in the rayon during several days after the Security Council adopts the resolution on its deployment," stated Butrus Ghali.

Kavsadze Denies Armed Groups in Gali Region

LD1005181694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 10 May 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—There are no Georgian guerrilla groups in the Abkhazian Gali region, says a statement of plenipotentiary representative of the Georgian state head on settlement in Abkhazia Aleksandr Kavsadze received by ITAR-TASS today from the press center of the Georgian Embassy in Russia.

The statement refutes Abkhazian claims that 250 armed Georgians allegedly crossed the Georgian-Abkhazian confrontation line along the Inguri River to terrorize the local Abkhazian population.

Kavsadze "personally controls the regional situation and can say for sure there are no Georgian guerrilla groups or other units on territory of the Gali region. Such Abkhazian reports aim to prepare the public for a new wave of deportation of the remaining Georgian population from the Gali region."

Georgian Union Leader on Taking Control of Abkhazia

LD1005113094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The leader of Georgian Union for the Liberation of Abkhazia Boris Kakubava said he needed only five thousand men to return Abkhazia to Georgian control. The Union advocates military action against Abkhazia.

Speaking on national television, Kakubava said that many men could be mobilized by the Union in no time at all. What he needed, he said, was understanding with the authorities and the Union's Council would soon discuss the issue with Eduard Shevardnadze.

Kakubava was confident that a united Georgia would find it very easy to defeat the Abkhaz separatists and mercenary forces. He said several hundred Georgians were fighting in guerrilla units on Abkhazian territory.

Georgian-Abkhazian Talks Continue in Moscow

LD1105111594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Georgian-Abkhazian talks, mediated by Russia, the United Nations, and the CSCE, continued this morning at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow. No precise agreements were reached at yesterday's meeting. On Tuesday the sides mainly debated the introduction of peacekeeping forces to the conflict zone. They talked about the option of deploying peacekeeping forces along the confrontation line between the armed formations of the warring sides, situated on the Inguri River. In particular, they discussed how far the troops should be withdrawn from the river in order to create a buffer zone, where peacekeeping forces could then be deployed.

Abkhazians Threaten To Shoot Down Georgian Aircraft

LD1105102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1016 GMT 11 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Abkhazia expressed a protest to Georgia over violations of its airspace by Georgian planes and warned it will shoot them down.

A statement by the Defence Ministry carried by the press service of the Abkhazian parliament expressed determination of Abkhazia "to destroy all flying craft which violate the border".

Russian experts fear that the situation in Abkhazia may aggravate in case any of the conflicting sides resorts to provocations. Tensions may spiral up, they believe, because both Georgia and Abkhazia occupy tough positions at the current talks in Moscow and often ignore reached agreements.

So. Ossetian Peacekeepers Attack Russian Troops

LD1005154394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1430 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tskhinvali, 10 [date as received]—IBERIA news agency was told at the press service of the Georgian Defense Ministry that on 9 May, at 2145, the situation in Samachablo region between the Russian Federation and Ossetia's peacekeeping troops deteriorated.

Together with the local population, a battalion of Ossetia's peacekeeping troops carried out an assault on the Russian military servicemen attempting to disarm them. The highest state of alert was declared among the Russian peacekeeping troops. The tension lasted until 2400.

The tension has now been removed and the situation is under control.

Envoy Discusses Situation in South Ossetia

AU1005154794 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 28 Apr p 1

[Interview with Vazha Khachapuridze, state plenipotentiary on questions concerning the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and personal envoy of the Georgian head of state in the Shida Kartli region, by Spartak Kobulia in Tbilisi; date not given: "Vazha Khachapuridze: 'Samachablo Was and Will Be Part of Georgia Where Ossetians and Georgians Will Live Together!'"]

[Text] As is known, in accordance with a directive of the Georgian head of state, Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Vazha Khachapuridze has been appointed as state plenipotentiary on questions concerning the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and personal envoy of the Georgian head of state in the Shida Kartli region. We propose an interview with him.

[Kobulia] Batono Vazha, if I may be so bold and begin by asking you a direct question: Why were you precisely chosen when the decision was adopted to extend to such a degree the functions and powers of the head of state's personal envoy in the Shida Kartli region?

[Khachapuridze] Not only the functions and powers but also responsibilities (and this is the most important thing) have been considerably increased. Proceeding from the situation that has taken shape, this is fully justified. There is a real danger that the Georgian-Ossetian conflict could soon turn into a chronic Georgian disease. It is no secret that the war in Abkhazia and our internal political upheavals have ostensibly transformed events in former South Ossetia into a problem of secondary importance. The fact that there has apparently been no fighting here for some time has contributed to this. However, in reality, the situation has been getting more complex from day to day and...unfortunately, this is continuing. In addition, the psyche and mood of the region's Ossetian population is changing. In reality, many of them today no longer consider themselves to be Georgian citizens! If we delay things again, the process could acquire an irreversible character. Given that, let us say, former relations between the Ossetian population and the north [North Ossetia] are becoming stronger and more extensive by the day, immediate measures need to be adopted if we are not to lose forever this historic part of Georgia.

This is not to mention such a common plague as drug addiction.... I will say without exaggeration that the struggle against Ossetian separatism could become child's play compared with the struggle against drug addiction. We let slip the opportunity to nip the drugs business in the bud (the Georgian Government at the time was faced with other vitally important problems); it has today turned into a monster that will be difficult to defeat. In short, the complexity and variety of the problems that need to be solved have necessitated extensive powers and considerable responsibility. As regards my appointment, probably one factor in this was that I come from Samachablo; I grew up there and began work there. I continue to have close contacts and relations with Georgian and Ossetian circles and am able to enter into dialogue with them, which is so essential today. One should also take into account that I have normal relations with the command of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the region....

[Kobulia] At the end of last year, our press wrote that you travelled to North Ossetia and established contacts with local sociopolitical circles. Are these contacts continuing?

[Khachapuridze] Of course. While we were in Vladikavkaz, we had fruitful meetings with North Ossetian scholarly circles, parliamentarians, and representatives of the Georgian compatriots' association. We now plan to have another meeting but, this time, with the participation of CSCE representatives. We pin great hopes on this process. There are, after all, hundreds of thousands of refugees from Georgia in North Ossetia and the local leadership is extremely interested in a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The main thing is that everyone is clearly fed up with the "hot" or "cold" war....

[Kobulia] If it is not a secret, what position does Vladikavkaz hold regarding the question of the status of Samachablo?

[Khachapuridze] I will begin by telling you that no one questions the territorial integrity of Georgia. As regards its general status, it is natural that the resolution of this political problem of state importance does not and cannot

fall within the jurisdiction of the region's state plenipotentiary. The Constitution will decide this, taking into account the interests of all national minorities and all peoples living in Georgia in accordance with the recognized norms of international law. It does not accord with Georgia's interests if we fill our future statehood with new time bombs as the Bolsheviks did in the 1920's. Therefore, I believe that, taking into account every moment, Ossetian and Georgian specialists should discuss the status issue together; after all, one should not disregard the fact that more Ossetians live outside the former South Ossetian Oblast—in the same Georgia—than within it. What rights should Ossetians living in Tbilisi, Gori, Khashuri, Kareli, Akhmeta, or Lagodekhi have? In no way do we want them to have fewer rights than their compatriots in Tskhinvali or Java. I am not a lawyer but I do know that all Ossetians should enjoy equal rights in the future Georgia. Any other Georgia will not be a democratic state.

[Kobulia] Your words have an optimistic ring about them. As can be seen, you view the future with hope. Upon what is this optimism based? After all, today's opposition blame the authorities for the loss of both Abkhazia and Samachablo.

[Khachapuridze] What opposition does not blame the authorities for one thing or another? To what extent these accusations are justified is another question. It is a fact that our jurisdiction has become fiction in a number of regions of Georgia. However, I personally have no doubt that this is a temporary phenomenon. Take a look at our history. How often and for how long have we lost this or that territory? Didn't the amir [Muslim governor] have his residence in Tbilisi itself? God forbid that even the opposition should sincerely believe that Sukhumi or Tskhinvali have been lost forever. The Georgian nation will not forgive anyone—neither the current authorities nor that opposition that could itself come to power tomorrow—for the loss of Georgia's ancient land. This issue is a double-edged sword and any attempt to use it for narrow political motives is extremely risky. Finally, it is not a particular government but the country, the entire nation, and posterity that loses any territory. As regards specifically Samachablo, it is in no way "lost." If I did not believe this, I would not have assumed this post. I accepted it because I believed that Samachablo was and will be a part of Georgia where Ossetians and Georgians will live together.

[Kobulia] We Georgians have difficulty in finding the "golden mean" everywhere and in everything. We have to go to either one extreme or the other. Now also, one part of society pins its hopes only on diplomacy and international organizations while the other believes that the only way of getting back Abkhazia and Samachablo is by force. As you have told us, you are opposed to violent methods.

[Khachapuridze] As a person with a certain knowledge of politics (I do not wish to call myself a politician), I do not exclude violent methods in principle; in a certain situation, the interests of the state demand the use of force. After all, hasn't the United States often used force to establish order in the country? You remember how they dealt with the "Black Panthers." As regards our case, I believe that there are no prospects for resolving the Georgian-Ossetian conflict by force. Let us suppose that, with the help of external forces, ultranationalist and separatist forces on the Ossetian side would be able to maintain temporarily independence from Georgia. Then what? First, this would not constitute any kind of independence; even Vladikavkaz itself does not recognize them. Second, this would bring more misfortune to the Ossetian people! Likewise to us. If we use force to get Ossetians to accept conditions that do not correspond to their legal interests, this will also not be a guarantee of firm and lasting peace. The very first minor pretext will become a catalyst for renewed bloodshed, destruction, and a fresh flow of persecuted people; there can be no victor in a civil war and, likewise, one cannot neutralize once and for all relapses into civil war by force. Only a political approach and mutual agreement are acceptable here, when neither side feels that it is being deceived. Therefore, while there remains the slightest chance of settling the conflict by political means, I exclude any use of force. We should use our power and Ossetian power against the common enemy—the drugs business and the drugs mafia. That is why we are calling upon the help of scholars and experts and I view this as a great force. Kalbatoni Marika Lortkipanidze and Batonebi Nodar Lomouri, Zurab Porakishvili, Levan Toidze, Soso Tsintsadze, and Levan Mataradze are already actively cooperating with us.

[Kobulia] A final question: Today, we are talking in Tbilisi although any person will tell you that your place is in Tskhinvali. How long will it be, do you think, before we can meet and continue our chat in Tskhinvali?

[Khachapuridze] Desire always exceeds reality. There is a difference between optimism and illusion. A great deal of work is necessary before a Tbilisian can freely go to Tskhinvali and feel safe. We are ready to do this work and we have elaborated a plan for this. This is no longer an illusion but optimism that is based on real factors. Ossetians from Tskhinvali, Java, and Akhalgori will arrive in Tbilisi without fear. This is how it was in the past and this is how it will be in the future. I will add that I have three daughters and I would like one at least to be married in her father's native region. You will see how many Ossetians will be my guests there....

[Kobulia] May God hear you!

Navy Commander Says No Transfer of Fleet to Poti

LD1005145894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The Commander of the Georgian Navy Admiral Aleksandr Dzhavakhishvili stated that "there can be no transfer of part of the naval base in Poti to commercial structures."

In an interview with Interfax he said that such an idea was proposed by some Georgian businenessmen with the

purpsoe of expanding the commercial port. The commander said that these businessmen are supported "by certain circles in the republic's leadership."

Dzhavakhishvili said that the naval base in Poti is the second largest in the Black Sea after Sevastopol. It has a training center, a modern military port, a ship-building and ship-repairing plants, many warehouses in which emergency reserves for all of the Black Sea Fleet were stored, oilbases, etc. "They want to give all this to commercial structures," he said.

The commander said that "if the discussion of such projects does not stop, the Georgian Defense Ministry will have to resort to tough measures."

He said that during the recent meeting between the commander of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy an agreement was reached on periodical entries of Russian and Ukrainian military ships in the Poti base. "Other joint arrangements were also scheduled," the commander said.

Kitovani Views New Defense Minister

AU1005144894 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 28-29 Apr 94 p 1

[Badri Koplatadze article: "Reut's Deputy Has Become Defense Minister. Tengiz Kitovani Has Returned To Georgia."]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

Kitovani's Return From His Travels

During the closed session [of Parliament on 26 April], the recent return from Moscow of former Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani was the focus of journalists' attention. Kitovani looked extremely self-confident and enthusiastically answered journalists' questions. The former minister views the new [defense] minister [General Vardiko Nadibaidze] with extreme skepticism. Kitovani believes that Vardiko Nadibaidze will be unable to live up to people's hopes. In addition to this, many problems are arising in the Army that is unaccustomed to Nadibaidze's style of work.

Tengiz Kitovani gave a similarly negative assessment of the personality of [former minister] Murman Omanidze. "How can I have a good opinion of Omanidze who has stolen so many millions of dollars," said Kitovani. Kitovani pointed out that Omanidze's rapprochement with the Union of Traditionalists was highly doubtful given that he [Kitovani] was the founder of the union along with [former Supreme Council Chairman] Akaki Asatiani. Regarding Omanidze's intention to become a parliamentary deputy for Rustavi [major industrial town southeast of Tbilisi], Kitovani stated: "This will be possible only if he buys up the whole of Rustavi." It is interesting to note that [former Deputy Interior Minister] Davit Zeikidze, who incurred the wrath of parliament, is also planning to take part in the elections in Rustavi. Kitovani characterized the terrorist acts that have been taking place in Georgia as state terror. He touched upon his trip to Russia and pointed out that he had visited certain circles there. "We should view the situation in Georgia from there," stated the former minister. According to him, people in Russia have a very bad view of Georgia and so long as Shevardnadze remains in power, the situation will not change. Kitovani explained this by saying that Shevardnadze had nothing to be proud of when he left Russia and, in general, according to Kitovani, if Shevardnadze resigns in time, the situation will be saved. Kitovani explained Shevardnadze's return to Georgia in the following way: "We brought him here so that people could really see the situation that would take shape. Otherwise, they would have constantly been pinning their hopes on Shevardnadze alone."

Tengiz Kitovani cannot see any difference between democratic and reactionary Russia as everyone wants to rule and conduct his own policies. In his opinion, we will be unable to move out of the sphere of Russian influence. This was already decided in Malta. "We had a chance to leave then. If we had been more clever, we would have used it," said Kitovani. "However, now it is necessary to establish mutual understanding with those who are interested in the Caucasus." Kitovani mentioned the bad actions of our neighbors [Russia] and reminded journalists of what battalions had fought in Abkhazia. Regarding his meeting with Zhirinovskiy, Kitovani explained Volfovich's real intentions. He views Abkhazia as an integral part of Russia.

As for Abkhazia, Tengiz Kitovani stated that it was lost and that there was little chance of getting it back. "Shevardnadze was the principal reason for our losing Abkhazia," said Kitovani and added that he was guilty of many crimes. He mentioned Shevardnadze's visit to Kazakhstan and China as being one of the reasons for the loss of Abkhazia.

In response to REZONANSI's question as to what he thought about the current inspection of the Ministry of Defense, he said that he had nothing to fear and, if there had been something, the whole world would have known about it by now.

Finally, Kitovani pointed out that Georgia should be a parliamentary republic and that one-man management should be abolished as this, in Kitovani's view, will lead us to dictatorship. [passage omitted]

Official Admits Human Rights Violations

LD0605190394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1510 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Aleksandre Kavsadze, the chairman of the Georgian State Committee of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations, met Tevfik Okayuz, the Turkish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia. During the conversation issues pertaining to the protection of human rights in Georgia and ethnic minorities were discussed. Kavsadze admitted to certain violations of human rights in Georgia. However, the very existence of the committee he is chairing created on the initiative of the head of state proves that in future human rights protection will become a cornerstone of state policy. Aleksandre Kavsadze has also said that the committee is working on a draft law on ethnic minorities in the Republic and this draft law will soon be submitted to the Supreme Council for consideration.

Estonia

Meri Demands Official Explanation of Grachev Statement

LD1005162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 88 (578); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Lennart Meri believes unacceptable the threat of use of military methods by one UN member towards another UN member. This is utterly inadmissible in the United Nations, the CSCE, where Estonia plays an active role, he said.

This is how the Estonian president commented in an interview granted to the national television on the recent statement by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev who said that Russian servicemen will stay in Estonia as much time as they are needed, and the contingent will be increased if there is need to protect military sites.

Meri is sure that the possible threat of the increase in the number of the Russian troops in Estonia should be the subject of discussion at the conference of foreign ministers of the Baltic States Council due to open on May 25.

On Monday Meri summoned Russian Ambassador in Estonia Aleksandr Trofimov and demanded that he should provide official explanations on Grachev's statement.

A spokesman for the Estonian president has told Interfax that Meri told the Russian diplomat that Estonia would continue to maintain neighborly relations with Russia, which has always been the main aim of the state's foreign policy.

Trofimov promised to provide explanations shortly.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman for the Estonian Foreign Ministry, Mari-Ann Rikken described the statement by the Russian Defense Minister as an attempt to add pressure on Estonia's position in terms of the Russian troops pull-out. She described Grachev words as "the pressure on a small republic which is not in line with Russia's intention to solve problems in the spirit of compromise."

The spokeswoman believes the statement was timed to coincide to the 19 round of the inter-state talks which ended on the same day (May 6) near Tallinn. At the talks the pull-out problem was the main one. Rikken said that the failure of the talks where, contrary to expectations, the package of agreements on the pull-out was not initialed, "was not accidental". Russia's toughened stance towards the pull-out treaty which was drafted several rounds before, reflect the sentiments reigning in the Defence and Foreign ministries of Russia.

The spokeswoman said that Grachev's statement was probably intended by Russia to probe the reaction in the world. IF Note: The chairman of the Lithuanian parliament in an interview with Interfax expressed hope that Grachev statement reflects his personal view, not the position of President Yeltsin. "The delay with the pull-out, the more so, the deployment of an additional contingent, would be not only the manifestation of pressure on the sovereign state, but the ignorance of the opinion of the world public, the violation of the laws registered in the UN documents, the CSCE and other authoritative international organizations, he said.

Premier on 'Direct Threat' to Sovereignty

WS1005143294 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1306 GMT 10 May 94

["Text" of statement issued by Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar in Tallinn on 9 May—received via Internet E-LIST]

[Text] At a press conference which took place in Moscow May 6, the Russian Federation's Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev, stated that Russia will keep its forces in Estonia as long as it deems necessary and even reserves the right to bring in more troops if necessary.

This kind of statement by the Russian Defense Minister can be classified as a direct threat to Estonian independence and sovereignty.

Within the framework of the CSCE and the United Nations, Russia has made a commitment to withdraw its troops from Estonia, without any connection to any other issue. The August 31, 1994 date was offered by Russia itself. Likewise, Russia has no basis for tying the withdrawal of troops from Estonia to the withdrawal of troops from Latvia and Lithuania.

I hope that this statement by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev represents his personal opinion and not Russia's official position. In this connection, I have directed our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request an explanation from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the hopes that Russia's Foreign Ministry will refute Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's irresponsible and tension producing statement.

Polish President Holds News Conference, Concludes Visit

WS1105090294 Tallinn ETA in English 1742 GMT 10 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Polish President Lech Walesa together with Mrs. Danuta Walesa, who were on a two-day state visit to Estonia, concluded their visit on Tuesday [10 May] in Tartu.

Walesa met Tartu Mayor Vino Kull and city government members, Tartu University Rector Peeter Tulviste and made a speech to students, saying that both in Poland and Estonia new era and new possibilities need to be taken advantage of especially by young people.

At a press conference, given by Estonian President Meri and Polish President Walesa at the end of the visit, Walesa said that his first visit to Estonia was a return visit to

President Meri's visit to Poland last May. Walesa said that the two presidents had determined the conception of development of Estonian-Polish relations, which would be the basis for concrete cooperation of the governments of the two states.

Commenting upon Estonian-Russian relations Walesa said that Russia should substitute her "dictatorship policy with partnership policy". "The problem of Russians in her neighbouring countries is the result of Stalin's policy. National minorities, however, must be loyal to the state where they live," Walesa said, adding that solution to these problems might take several decades but that policies which we see in Yugoslavia should be avoided.

Walesa said that representatives of Polish society in Estonia assured him that they "felt very well" here. "Of course not everything is ideal but these people understand difficulties caused by reforms in Estonia. In case of goodwill it is possible to solve all problems that arise," Walesa said.

Estonian President Lennart Meri told the press conference that Estonia and Poland have, thanks to geographic position common interests in many aspects. He thanked Walesa for Poland's support to Estonia's demand to withdraw Russian troops from Estonia by August 31, 1994. Meri stated that Estonia was interested in Polish investments. He added that already during the earlier meetings of Polish and Estonian leaders possibilities to build a gas pipeline that would connect Finland, Baltics and Poland with Norwegian gas reservoirs has been discussed, which would help to guarantee the independence of states of the region from their eastern neighbour.

Polish President left for Poland Tuesday afternoon.

Walesa: Baltic Independence Vital to Poland

WS1105103494 Tallinn BNS in English 0253 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tartu, Estonia, May 10, BNS—Polish President Lech Walesa today finished a two-day visit to Estonia which included talks with President Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Mart Laar, parliament Chairman Ulo Nugis, as well as meetings with MP's [member of parliament] and the country's Polish community.

The Polish leader today had meetings in Estonia's second-largest town, the southern regional capital Tartu with local leaders and the rector of Tartu University.

Walesa at a press conference before leaving Estonia today said the two countries should establish a common system of political- economic development patterns and concepts to help the countries in their integration with Europe. "The independence of one country also means sovereignty of the other country and, in the final account—the freedom of Europe on the whole," the Polish president told reporters.

He said Poland has enough economic, political and military strength to influence Russia to take Estonia as an equal partner.

Walesa in his comments on last week's statement by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in which the Russian minister threatened that Moscow might leave its army units in Estonia or even bring in additional troops, reminded that the remarks had come from one single politician which didn't mean that being Russia's official policy line.

But Walesa said a problem of ethnic minorities exists in Estonia and added that each country must protect its ethnic minorities.

While seeking a solution to these issues one must not proceed from the concept of nationality, but must be able to see the people's concrete worries, the Polish leader said.

Estonian President Lennart Meri said Estonia is very much interested in attracting Polish investments. But he added that the politicians can only create the conditions for active economic collaboration, while the real work remains to be done by the businesses themselves.

Meri said that since Estonia and Poland are both equally lacking oil or natural gas resources of their own, they must join forces to build a pipeline that would connect the Baltics, Poland, and some other North European country with the gas region off the Norwegian coast.

The Estonian president also pointed at the political and cultural aspects, beside the economic ones, of the Via Baltica—a car transit route planned to connect the three Baltic countries and Finland with Central Europe via Poland.

Justice Minister Calls War Crimes Bill 'Immature'

WS1105103794 Tallinn BNS in English 0253 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 10, BNS—The Estonian Minister of Justice, Kaido Kama, today criticized a bill on crimes against humanity and war crimes submitted to the parliament by the legislative body's so-called KGB commission.

The bill, which Kama said needs taking back as immature, is aimed toward establishing rules for the legal prosecution of activists of serial executions and mass deportations carried out in Estonia after the Soviet takeover in 1940, during World War II and the following almost decade of violent suppression by Stalin's regime.

The legislation was submitted by the parliamentary commission for investigation into the activities of the KGB and other foreign secret services in Estonia.

Kama said the parliamentary commission had submitted a "raw version" of the Justice Ministry's bill which the ministry had just turned over to other departments for coordination.

Although Estonia has joined the respective international conventions, it so far lacks legislation of its own to allow to start criminal proceedings against persons suspected of such crimes, the minister said.

The bill is now expected to be discussed by the legislative body as early as this week.

MP [member of parliament] Enn Tarto, a former political prisoner who heads the parliament's KGB commission, has told reporters his commission has got evidence against a number of persons who could be convicted for war crimes.

"We have turned over to the State Prosecutor's Office materials and documents about persons who organized and carried out the June 13 and July 1-4, 1941, and March 25-28, 1945, mass deportations and the 1951 deportation of members of non-majority Christian denominations," Tarto said.

"The prosecutor's office turned these materials over to the Defense Police, who refused to start a criminal case. Now the materials have been sent back to the State Prosecutor's Office and the whole case hangs in the air," he added.

Police Chief To Inherit Acting Guard Commander Post

WS1105092094 Tallinn BNS in English 0253 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 10, BNS—The Estonian Cabinet at its meeting today ruled to post the newly appointed director general of the Police Department, Uuno Ellen, also as the acting head of the Home Guard.

The ruling is aimed at following the recent practice when the national police chief simultaneously was the head of the volunteer law enforcement force.

But Justice Minister Kaido Kama also told reporters today the Cabinet had ordered the Interior Ministry to draw up within one month's time a draft of new Home Guard Statutes or submit to the government a scheme of changes in the Home Guard organization.

It cannot be considered normal that the head of such kind of a volunteer-based organization is appointed by the government Kama said.

The parliament last month adopted a law on noncommissioned police force.

Home Guard leaders claim the legislation has placed their organization outside the legal framework.

The currently effective statutes of the Estonian Home Guard were established under a April 28, 1992 ruling of the government. The head of the parliamentary legal affairs commission, Juri Adams, has admitted that the ruling from two years ago fails to effectively correspond to present-day needs. Adams has suggested the Home Guard could continue existing as a non-profit organization or a public service entity.

Ruling Party Faction Protests Russian Victory Celebration

WS1005143494 Tallinn BNS in English 1255 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 10, BNS—The parliament faction of the senior political party in the Estonian governing coalition, the Pro Patria, issued a protest against Monday's [9 May] lighting of a memorial fire at the feet of a statue of Russian soldiers killed in World War II.

The temporary re-lighting of the fire in the memorial at Tonismagi, Tallinn, was authorized by Tallinn City authorities.

The Pro Patria faction in its statement today reminds that the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany in World War II meant for Estonia just replacement of one occupation with another.

"Also at the meeting at Tonismagi yesterday calls directed against the Estonian statehood were voiced and the symbols of a country that occupied us—of the Soviet Union—used," the Pro Patria says.

Quoting the fact that the Tallinn council and City Government are headed by opposition Coalition Party leaders Tiit Vahi and Jaak Tamm, the statement also points out that at a time when the Coalition party-led municipal administration gave a green light to the anti-Estonian rally, also attacks by the opposition against the Estonian Government delegation for talks with Russia have escalated.

"The Estonian delegation has remained true to Estonia's interests in everything and everywhere. At the same time we are concerned about the using of the Russian card as a tool to achieve domestic political aims by some political forces. We cannot go to concessions over issues vital to the Estonian state and people," the statement reads.

The permission issued by the municipal administration to Russian organizations to re-light the eternal fire was also protested by another ruling coalition member—the National Independence Party.

"Lighting of the eternal fire was a moral support to the occupation forces still in Estonia," the party's Tallinn branch said in a statement.

The protests came after Russian organizations had held a ceremony at the Tonismagi memorial before noon on Monday to mark the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

Wreaths were laid at the monument Monday by representatives of the Tallinn veterans league, the Russian Assembly, Russian deputies in the City Council, and the Russian Embassy in Tallinn.

The ceremony was followed by an Orthodox Holy Liturgy in the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral at nearby Toompea.

Centrist, Entrepreneurs Parties Sign Accord

WS1105085794 Tallinn ETA in English 1742 GM 10 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] On Tuesday [10 May], biggest Estonian opposition party Estonian Centrist Party and Estonian Entrepreneurs Party signed a cooperation protocol, which determines basis for further closer cooperation of the parties, spokesman of the Centrist Party told ETA.

"Estonian political forces are split up and personality-centered," the protocol says, adding that "time demanded cooperation of parties with close programmic positions", forecasting association of Estonian Centrist oriented political powers to achieve better results in the interests of the Estonian state.

The document prescribes cooperation in opposition, both to organize joint political actions and to prepare a programmed to "lead Estonia's economic and political government after the next parliamentary elections".

Latvia

Latvia To Become Associate WEU Partner

LD1005175994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpt] Today, the official visit of a Latvian Government delegation to France continued. The delegation is led by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. During the visit, there was discussion with French officials of the possibilities for the two countries' cooperation in the economic, defense, and security spheres, as well as Latvia's participation in the European stability pact. Today Birkavs met French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. Birkavs tells us about this from Paris, specially for Latvian Radio:

[Begin Birkavs recording] Here the main achievement is that within the framework of the European stability pact, (?we have gained) certain political guarantees in connection with the agreement signed on 30 April. It is clear to us that after signing a (?free) agreement on the European Union, France and Germany together support the signing of a treaty of association with the European Union this year. When we started talking about the Council of Europe, in which Latvia must also participate, the French side believed it was a question that was not to be discussed practically, because only a citizenship law is necessary, and we immediately received the support of European countries in this connection. What is also very positive is that we have attained the role of associate partner in the Western European Union [WEU], and that gives (?the right) to take part in the military operations of the WEU, their planning, in direct contacts with the planning office of the WEU, and also a whole range of issues connected with Latvia's security. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Inflation of 2.7 Percent Reported in Apr

WS1105091794 Tallinn BNS in English 0253 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 10, BNS—The consumer prices increased 2.7 percent between March and April, the State Statistics Committee reported.

Prices went 1.7 percent up in March, 3.4 percent up in February and 3.8 percent up in January. Thus, in April compared with December, 1993, prices rose 12.2 percent. The annual inflation rate since April, 1993, was 32.4 percent.

In 1993 and 1994, inflation reached its peak last November when prices soared 8.8 percent. The lowest inflation rate was reported last August when deflation ran at 1.7 percent.

The Cabinet decided to raise the monthly minimum wages from 15 lats to 22.5 lats, or 50 percent, beginning with May 1.

Regardless of inflation, the exchange rate of the national currency, the lat, against the Special Drawing Rights [SDR] currency basket remained stable 0.79 lats against 1 SDR unit.

The Bank of Latvia's refinancing rate also remained unchanged, it was 27 percent per year. Simultaneously, the hidden interest rates in auctions of state treasury bills dropped from 32 percent to 29 percent. The average discount rate of state securities was 23 percent in April.

The monthly inflation rate in Latvia should not exceed 0.5 percent, according to requirements of a joint memorandum of Latvia and the International Monetary Fund.

Unofficial sources have said that the Latvian Government plans to seek increasing of the minimal acceptable monthly inflation rate to 1 percent.

Lithuania reported the lowest inflation rate in the Baltic countries in April (1.6 percent) while in Estonia inflation rate edged up highest (3.1 percent). In Russia, prices rose 9.7 percent last month.

Space Surveillance Station To Be Used for Science

LD1005172794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The Russian space surveillance station in Latvia will be used for scientific purposes after Russia withdraws its troops from the republic. The station will be utilized for space, the world ocean and seismic research. This was decided by the Latvian Academy of Science today.

The radio radar station with a 32-meter parabolic aerial is situated near Ventspils (180 kilometers to the north-west from Riga). It is considered one of the three Russian military strategic facilities on Latvian territory along with the radio radar station in Skrunda and the military port in Liepaja.

The Latvian Academy stressed that the radio telescope could be used jointly with the Russian Academy of Science. The two academies had signed a protocol on intentions in late April.

Head of the Department for Control over Russian troop withdrawal in the Latvian government, Ilgonis Upmalis, emphasized that utilization of the station for scientific purposes would raise the authority of Latvian science and let Latvia contribute to international research programs.

The Russian military facility will be transferred to Latvia on August 31, 1994 (after Russian troop withdrawal is over).

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